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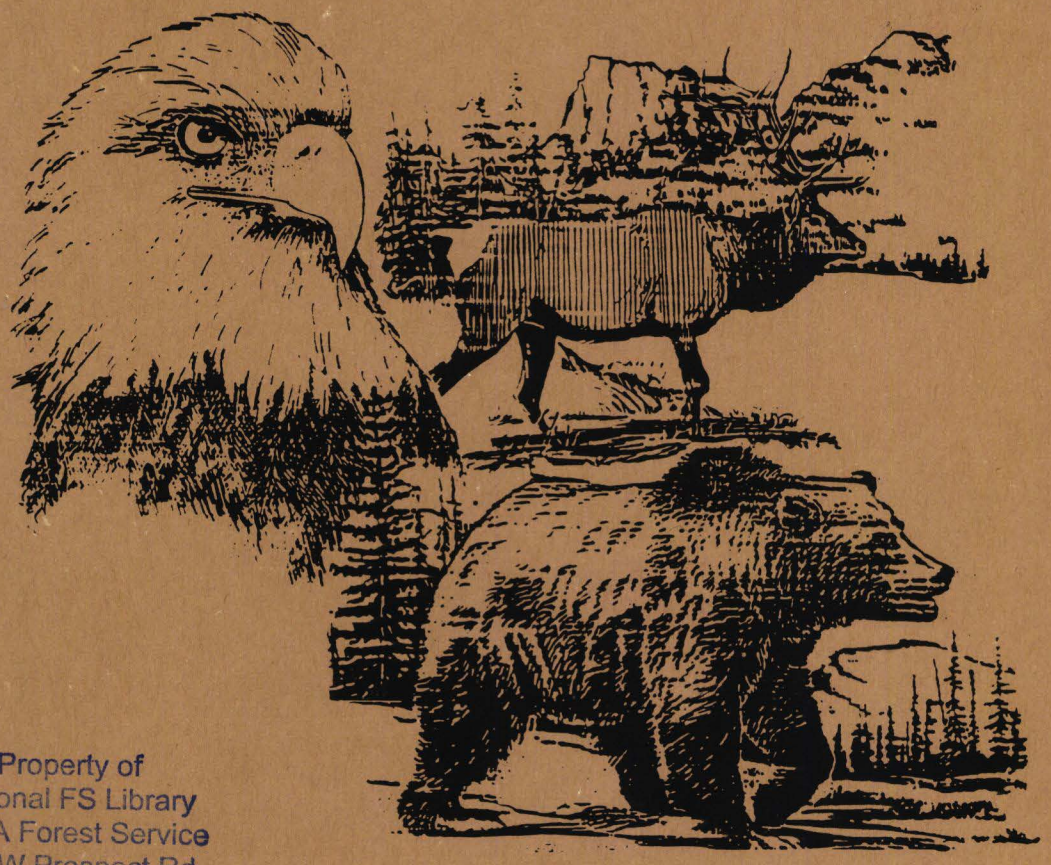
BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST

1993 MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT



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BRIDGER-TETON
NATIONAL FOREST

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INTRODUCTION

The regulations that implement the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA) require that management activities and resource conditions be monitored and evaluated to determine how well the Forest Plan Objectives are being met and how Forest Plan Standard and Guildline are being applied.

The following report presents the results of the Bridger-Teton National Forest monitoring efforts over the past year.

An Annual Report, in a simplified tabloid format, has also been prepared in conjunction with this report and is available upon request from any Bridger-Teton National Forest Office.

So What's In This Report?

This Monitoring and Evaluation Report responds to all Priority 1 and 2 items found in the Bridger-Teton Forest Plan Monitoring Plan (Chapter 5, page 321). Ten additional items have been added either because of special situations that have arisen or the interdisciplinary team compiling this document (Appendix B) concluded that significant activities were not included in the original Monitoring Plan. Several items were not addressed in this year's report due to lack of data. During the next year a concerted effort will be made to develop mechanisms to collect the data for these items and to do so in a manner that will make it feasible to report and evaluate the results. The items that are not reported on are as follows:

G1(b) - Effectiveness monitoring of vegetation manipulation, review of environmental assessments, and field reviews of vegetative management activities - Priority 1.

I4 - Effectiveness monitoring of timber management practices including harvest on lands not suited for timber production to meet multiple-use objectives - Priority 1.

I6 - Validation monitoring of growth and yield in response to silvicultural prescriptions to verify yield tables and management intensities - Priority 3.

You will notice that Priority 3 items are not included, and that no results were reported for some items that are included. This is because the Monitoring Plan, as written, reflects what we would accomplish if the Forest received full funding to implement the Forest Plan. In reality, we receive less than half of the budget that is necessary for full implementation. Thus, we are unable to provide the people and dollars necessary to completely address all monitoring items.

It would be useful to have a copy of the Forest Monitoring Plan available for referencing when reviewing this report but it is not essential.

How Do I Find What I'm Looking For?

The original Monitoring Plan was arranged functionally (for example, recreation, range, wildlife, etc.), however, there is significant overlap between these functions. The Bridger-Teton National Forest chooses to approach resource management from an integrated approach rather than functionally. For this reason, and to give a more complete picture of how the Forest is implementing the Forest Plan, the monitoring items in the original plan are grouped by Integrated Resource Category in this report.

The Table of Contents lists these Integrated Resource Categories and gives a brief description of each item within those Categories. For example, the category of **Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats** contains all function-

al elements in Range, Timber, and Wildlife that pertain to actual conditions on the ground. The category of **Policy and Process** covers all administrative functions such as permit administration, effects on local communities and how well we're meeting Goals and Objectives.

A coding system was developed for internal tracking by labelling each of the items in the Monitoring Plan. Each major element was lettered and each item under that element was numbered. However, the Integrated Resource Categories are self-explanatory and the codes can be ignored.

Where Can I Get More Information?
In many cases, reports on each item are summarized and do not contain all the data collected. To review the more detailed information, please contact the Supervisor's Office and we will provide copies of the data or direct you to the office where those files can be reviewed.

So What Happens Next?
At the end of each item, "Actions" are suggested to improve the method, result, or reliability of monitoring. The Forest will make every effort to follow these "Actions", however, budgetary and staffing constraints may limit how much we can undertake.

Just as important as the Proposed Actions is the revision of the current Monitoring Plan. This is your Forest Plan as well as ours - we need to know what you think needs to be included for future monitoring. It's critical that we spend our monitoring time and efforts effectively and tell you what you want to know about the state of the resources on the Bridger-Teton.

There will be numerous opportunities for public involvement for both reviewing the contents of this monitoring report and helping the Forest develop an improved monitoring plan for the future. Also, the Forest welcomes your involvement in actual monitoring efforts; you benefit by gaining an understanding of Forest activities, and the Forest benefits by looking at our work from a different perspective. If you want to be involved, contact the Planning Staff Group in the Supervisor's Office or your local District Ranger.

POLICY AND PROCESS

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

A1 - Monitoring compliance of our management activities with Forest Plan Goals and Objectives - Priority 1.

METHOD:

Review Forest-wide management actions to measure process in accomplishing Forest Plan Goals and Objectives.

RESULTS:

The following outlines accomplishments to date and to what extent each Forest Plan Goal and Objective has been met in Fiscal Year 1993 (FY93). In situations where cumulative numeric goals or annual averages are specified, FY 92 figures are included for reference.

Where applicable, sources for specific information are identified and are available upon request.

Districts are referred to by number where geographic referencing would be helpful in tracking accomplishments: D1 - Kemmerer, D2 - Big Piney, D3 - Greys River, D4 - Jackson, D6 - Buffalo, and D7 - Pinedale.

FOREST TIES TO HUMAN COMMUNITIES: PROBLEMS IN LIVELIHOODS & LIFESTYLES

PROBLEM TOPIC 1: COMMUNITY ECONOMICS AND JOBS FROM THE BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST - COMPETITION FOR RESOURCES

Forest Challenge: Support Community Prosperity

Goal 1.1 - Communities continue or gain greater prosperity.

1.1(a) The Forest met this objective. A total of 13.9 mmbf of convertible timber was sold at $1,135,512. The majority of the volume was from two salvage sales: Gunsight Pass/Cottonwood and Dell Creek. The volume of sawtimber offered in the last four fiscal years were:

FY93: 9.5 mmbf of sawtimber offered.
FY92: 11.3 mmbf of sawtimber offered.
FY91: 5.7 mmbf of Sawtimber offered.
FY90: 1.1 mmbf of Sawtimber offered.

1.1(b) - This includes commercially offered cordwood/fuelwood. Following are the volumes of "cordwood" offered which includes some dead sawtimber sized material:

FY93 3.1 mmbf offered.
FY92: 3.9 mmbf offered.
FY91: 2.9 mmbf offered.
FY90: 4.2 mmbf offered.

1.1(c) - Most of commercial, advertised sales were offered by open bid. A substantial mix of products and sale sizes was provided. The following figures represent the number of sales sold by size class (Source: Cut and Sold records).

	1993		1992
up to $300 value	43	sales	106 sales
$300-$2000	26	sales	9 sales
$2000-2mmbf	20	sales	12 sales
>2mmbf	2	sales	2 sales

1.1(d) - Oil and gas leasing decisions for specific lands were made for 2 Management Areas (24 and 35). There were no administrative appeals on the decisions. The approximate acres involved in these analyses were:

MA 24 - 73,800 acres.
MA 35 - 92,320 acres.

Oil and gas leasing was authorized for 12 parcels in MA 12. These parcels were removed from the lease sales and are being held by the Wyoming Srate Office of Bureau of Land Management.

The Bridger-Teton had the following parcels offered for sale in FY93:

MA 12	3 parcels	5,040 acres
MA 22	18 parcels	35,540 acres
MA 23	27 parcels	53,716 acres
MA 31	9 parcels	19,300 acres
MA 32	32 parcels	62,500 acres
MA 49	29 parcels	45,329 acres
Total	118 parcels	221,425 acres

A total of 33 parcels were sold at auctions in FY93. These parcels contained 55,449 acres and they sold for $470,676.

Total receipts from minerals on the Bridger-Teton was approximately 6.5 million dollars (Lease Rental and Bonuses - $730,000, and Royalties Collected - $5,800,000). Approximately 2.1 million of these dollars went to the State of Wyoming.

1.1(e) - Ongoing. All Districts provide opportunities for outfitters. The Forest issued 331 special-use permits in 1993. The Jackson District issued 119 permits was about one third of the total permits. The number of permits by types were:

Special Use	D1	D2	D3	D4	D6	D7	*Total*
Pack/Saddle/Hiking	8	26	17	69	84	39	243
Mountain Bikes		1		2	1		4
Wagon				1	1		2
Rock Climbing				3		1	4
Rafting/Kayak				11			11
Fishing	4	2	1	18	1		26
Snowmobile		6	6	8	4	8	32
Dogsled				1	1		2
Cross-country Skiing				5			5

Other*		1		1			2
Forest Total	12	36	24	119	92	48	331

Note: * Other includes 1 for all-terrain vehicle in Big Piney District, and 1 for helicopter skiing in Jackson District.

1.1(f) - Kemmerer District completed an Environmental Assessment for a new snowmobile trail grooming route on Hams Fork Ridge. Big Piney District did not process any new permits, because the current outfitteers are building their businesses and two permits were returned. Greys River District added 4 miles of new trails, and they have connected many snowmobile trails in order to provide greater recreation opportunities for snowmobilers. They also expanded the snowmobile parking lot at Alpine and improved the signing and self-serve registration station. As well as installed two snowmobile traffic counters. Greys River District has 6 snowmobile outfitters. Jackson District administered and conducted periodic permit monitoring, auditing, and summer grooming at Jackson Hole Ski Area and the Snow King Ski Area. The District also cooperated in awarding Conditional Divide Snowmobile Trail permits. Ana continue to administered commercial snowmobile permits, cross country skiing events, guided cross-country ski trips, helicopter skiing permits, and guided overnight nordic skiing permits. Jackson District completed a summer grooming project in Laramie Bowl at Jackson Hole Ski Area. Buffalo District & Pinedale District both participated in the prospectus process to obtain permittees for Continental Divide snowmobile trail. Permits have been issued. Pinedale District issued special-use permits for the operation of White Pine Ski Area and is presently working with the permittees on preparing master plan.

1.1(g) - Ongoing. Cooperated with Wyoming Game and Fish Department in the enforcement of winter and summer travel plans, and other management activities. There are 7 feedgrounds administered by the Wyoming Game and Fish on Bridger-Teton National Forest.

1.1(h) - Provided 247,799 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of authorized use in 1993: 187,130 AUMs - cattle, 58,078 AUMs - sheep and 2,591 AUMs - horses. Actual use was 213,162 AUMs in 1993: 164,193 AUMs - cattle, 45,714 AUMs - sheep and 3,255 AUMs - horses. (Source: FRAMIS).

1.1(i) - The Big Piney District administered a power line permit in the Hoback Canyon. The Greys River District allowed a new site for Union Telephone Co., and allowed Afton and Grover to build water systems on National Forest Lands. The Jackson District administered electric transmission lines (100 miles), phone lines, water distribution lines, and issued two new amendments for new transmission lines to private land/residences. The Wyoming Department of Transportation installed two additional Gas-Ex sites on Teton Pass for Avalanche control work.

Forest Challenge: Supply Access to Natural Resources

Goal 1.2 - A safe transportation system meets the needs of commercial users of the Bridger-Teton National Forest

1.2(a) - A temporary road to the Dell Creek area (Big Piney District) and a low standard work road to access timber on Pinedale District were constructed. No other permanent roads were constructed.

1.2(b) - Ongoing. See 1.1 and 1.2.

1.2(c) - Provided. (See 1.1(h)).

1.2(d) - Provided. (See Item E1 in Visitor Experience for detailed information).

1.2(e) - Jackson District administered and monitored construction and reconstruction of approximately five miles of access road to the Hunter Well site. (See 1.1(d)).

1.2(f) - Jackson District reconstructed 1/4 mile of Lower Cache Creek Road including graveling, new culverts, ditching, and reconstructed about 2 miles Goodwin Lake access road from the Sheep Creek Road junction to the new trailhead.

Forest Challenge: Ensure Needed Quantities of Clean Water

Goal 1.3 - Water quantity and quality are retained or improved for local users.

1.3(a) - Ongoing. Kemmerer District completed 60 acres of watershed improvement work in The Sheep Pass area. Greys River District issued 2 permits for water systems for Afton and Grover. And maintained a 98 percent compliance testing record. (See Item K5 for detailed information).

1.3(b) - Water quality has been improved and maintained and the standards have been met on the Forest. Jackson District sampled and maintained water quality below the Hunter Well site on Adams Creek.

Jackson District also did spot monitoring for coliform bacteria in Mosquito Creek above and below residential camping sites. Coliform count was significantly higher below sites than above them.

They also closed some severely impacted residential camping sites in riparian zones between the highway and the Snake River in the Snake River Canyon.

Goal 1.4 - Water production is increased in the Green River watershed.

1.4(a) - Not measurable.

PROBLEM TOPIC 2: PERSONAL RECREATION, ENJOYMENT, PLAY, AND SUBSISTENCE

Forest Challenge: Ensure Adequate Supplies of Needed Products and Experiences

Goal 2.1 - Adequate habitat for wildlife, fish, and edible vegetation to help meet human food needs is preserved.

2.1(a) - Big Piney District burned vegetation on Tripod Hill in order to provide transition range for elk. Greys River District cut 120 acres and Jackson District completed 30 acres of aspen for wildlife habitat improvement. Jackson District completed one fish habitat improvement project in the Gros Ventre River. Buffalo District completed 3 moose winter range restoration projects. Pinedale District completed a 400 acres aspen treatment project in elk calving range by prescribed burning.

2.1(b) - Opportunities exist.

Goal 2.2 - High-quality developed recreation facilities exist to serve Bridger-Teton National Forest visitors

2.2(a) - Greys River District reconstructed Moose Flat campground and made it a fee area. Jackson District developed new trailheads at Cache Creek and Goodwin Lake, and a new vault toilet at the Cache Creek trailhead. Jackson District installed a vault toilet at the Granite Creek Snowmobile Parking area and administered concessionaire contracts for the campgrounds and hot springs. Buffalo District reconstructed Sheffield and Angels trailhead facilities to improve traffic flow and enhance accessibility. Pinedale District completed the Green River Lakes Campground and Trailhead which increased the capacity from 25 camping units to 45, added 3 overnight group camping units, and increased the capacity of the trailhead.

2.2(b) Kemmerer District is working on Environmental Assessment for construction of a disabled fishing site in the Hams Fork area. Pinedale District constructed two toilets and several camping units in Green River Lakes Campground to be barrier free and also reconstructed two toilets in the Fremont Lake Campground to be barrier free.

Goal 2.3 - High-quality dispersed recreation opportunities exist to serve Bridger-Teton National Forest visitors.

2.3(a) - Trailhead facilities including toilet and trails were developed at Clear Creek on Kemmerer District. Inventory of sites is ongoing on Big Piney District. Greys River District closed three dispersed sites temporarily for rehabilitation. And their retained all existing dispersed recreation opportunities. Pinedale District Travel Plan update is partially completed. The Travel Plan is schedule to be completed by May 1994.

2.3(b) - Ongoing. Hoback River, Snake River and Green River are available. Greys River District provided an opportunity for kayak race.

Goal 2.4 - Supplies of personal-use products such as firewood, Christmas trees, ornamentals, rock, gravel, and other special items are available for people's use.

2.4(a) - Ongoing. Permits are available for purchase "over the counter" at forest offices. Individuals may purchase a permit to obtain up to 10 cords. A total of 5.56 million board feet of fuelwood were sold for $139,444 in FY93.

2.4(b) - This objective is being met. 2,990 Christmas tree permits were purchased by individuals in FY93. One dirt permit and one gravel/road permit were sold.

Goal 2.5 - A safe road and trail system provides access to a range of recreation opportunities and settings.

2.5(a) - Ongoing. Kemmerer District is working with Lincoln County to make the LaBarge/Smiths Fork Road a Forest Developed Road. Jackson District completed 3.0 miles of trail construction, maintained 160 miles of trail, marked and signed a cross-country ski trail up to the Ski Cabin and the snowmobile trails North of the Gros Ventre Road. They also signed and maintained Cache Creek/Game Creek bike trail, held a National Trails Day in conjunction with Teton County Pathways Group, and obtained a $25,000 Grant from Wyoming Department of Commerce for matching money for Cache Creek trail system with local Pathways Group. Buffalo District remove two bridges in the South Fork Spread Creek area that were found structurally unsafe for public use.

2.5(b) - No new roads were added. A 2.5 mile section of Cache Creek Road was closed.

2.5(c) - Kemmerer District approved an Environmental Assessment for grooming trails on Hams Fork Ridge (7 miles). Big Piney District improved a travel sign in North Piney area. The Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (Pinedale District) operated at full service.

2.5(d) - Kemmerer District constructed 1 mile of trail and maintained 120 miles. Greys River District reconstructed 3 miles and maintained 9 miles of trail. Buffalo District rerouted and constructed 3/4 mile of trail that provides access to Crater Lake in the Teton Wilderness. In total, the Forest cleared 450 miles of Wilderness trails, and cleared and provided minor maintenance for 15 miles of trails outside of wilderness. Pinedale District cleared additional 300 miles of trail, and reconstructed 5 miles of trail.

Forest Challenge: Control Certain Visual Disturbances and Access Restrictions

Goal 2.6 - Scenic values of certain private tracts highly visible to the Bridger-Teton National Forest visitor are protected from visual impact.

2.6(a) - Ongoing on Buffalo District, pre-work which may result in a land exchange for a scenic easement on another key property in the Buffalo Valley.

Goal 2.7 - Public lands presently blocked by private development are accessible.

2.7(a) - Jackson District is nearing completion of a land exchange which will result in acquisition of the Granite Creek Road right-of-way and Battle Mountain Lodge property and facilities.

2.7(b) - The Hans Graf land exchange was completed on Big Piney District which resulted in acquisition of a right-of-way for the Upper Hoback River Road plus improved public access to the Hoback River.

Goal 2.8 - Cultural resource information is available and displayed for the public.

2.8(a) - Ongoing. The Jackson Visitor Center provided a display of cultural resources. An opportunity was provided to the public to hike along the Lander Cut-off trail on Kemmerer District and Greys River District (about 35 people participated). The old Ranger cabin was made wheelchair accessible on Buffalo District.

NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST: PROBLEMS IN USE AND PROTECTION

PROBLEM TOPIC 3: THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPEICIES

(See Section 6 for more detailed information)

Forest Challenge: Contribute to the Recovery of the Grizzly Bear.

Goal 3.1 - Grizzly bear recovery is achieved.

3.1(a) - Monitored production of White Bark Pine Cones by counting cones along an established transect. Monitored Grizzly Bear distribution and habitat by mapping radio collared bear locations and all other sightings. (See Item G11).

3.1(b) - The Buffalo District has done a lot of work to meet this goal (see item G2 and E1 for detail). In summary:

(i) More information and education efforts were implemented:

'Grizzly Country' brochures were available at front desk, in-the-field, and at local business and ranches in the area. Over 6448 people were contacted in-the-field and over 2,000 people were contacted at the front office with grizzly information.

'Grizzly Country' posters were used on information boards and at local businesses and resorts during the fall hunting season. A larger format 'Grizzly Country' poster (24" X 36") has been produced and is available for use in 1994. A 'Grizzly Country' pin with accompanying educational message has also been created and is being sold at Forest offices.

A total of 1930 people (children and adults) were reached through 87 interpretive programs on grizzly bears. Two "VIP" trips were conducted to inform regional office and interagency personnel of Grizzly information/education and enforcement efforts.

Five citations and 80 incident reports were written. Over 50 follow-up letters were written to in-the-field contacts.

(ii) More bear-prevention facilities are available:
The District's pannier and Friends of Bridger-Teton's food tube "rental" program were expanded. 16 panniers and 16 food tubes (small and large) are now available. There were 68 panniers and 5 backpacker food tubes "rented" out (as compared to 11 and 0 respectively in 1992). Eight food storage boxes purchased and installed at dispersed camping areas at reconstructed trailheads. Two meat storage tripods (at reconstructed trailheads), and 14 poles (12 in Wilderness and two south of Highway 287), were installed. In addition, over 100 poles and boxes were inspected, repairs, and monitored for use.

Summer grizzly bear/cattle conflict continued to present problems. Recovery Plan guidelines were followed and no bears were trapped in Situation I, although one bear was relocated from Situation II due to depredation cattle. There were approximately 30 verified cattle killings by grizzly bears during FY93..

Forest Challenge: Contribute to the Recovery of Endangered Species

Goal 3.2 - Recovery is achieved for the endangered species on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

3.2(a) - Ongoing.

3.2(b) - Jackson District closed dispersed residential camping sites in the primary foraging area for two pairs of Eagles in the Snake River Canyon area near Pritchard boat launch.

3.2(c) - On Jackson District one nest was destroyed by high water in the Spring which washed away the snag containing the nest. The nesting pair started a new nest shortly afterwards.

3.2(d) - No new information available this year.

3.2(e) - A nesting pair of Bald Eagles returned to Dollar Lake and fledged one Eaglet. Two Eagles fledged from the Snake River nest and one from a nest in the Buffalo Valley.

3.2(f) - There is an abundance of suitable peregrine falcon habitat on the Forest.

3.2(g) - There was no known human mortality of trumpeter swans in FY93.

3.2(h) - Ongoing. One whooping crane is known to summer on private land in the Beaver Creek area on Big Piney District. Adequate habitat exists for the male whooping crane that summer in the Green River area.

3.2(i) - The Pinedale District met with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to update the Recovery Plan for the Kendall Warm Spring Dace. In FY94 the Recovery Plan will be updated, habitat that was lost due to road construction will be reclaimed, and a captive breeding program will be initiated.

Forest Challenge: Prevent Sensitive Species from Becoming Threatened

Goal 3.3 - Sensitive species are prevented from becoming a federally listed threatened species in Wyoming.

3.3(a) - A survey and collection of plants was conducted by the University of Wyoming in the summer. Greys River District completed studies of boreal owls and goshawks, and modified a timber sale to provide habitat for boreal owls.

3.3(b) - Kemmerer District installed 11 stream structures and a migration barrier to convert Clear Creek to a Colorado River Cutthroat trout fishery, which benefited 1 mile of stream.

3.3(c) - Kemmerer District is working with the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou National Forest on improving management of Giraffe Creek for Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat.

PROBLEM TOPIC 4: USE OF NATURAL RESOURCE PRODUCTS AND IMPACTS OF CHANGE IN FOREST COMMUNITIES

Forest Challenge: Minimize the Loss of Resources from Road Construction

Goal 4.1 - Road management preserves wildlife security, soil, visual resource, and water-quality values.

4.1(a) - Ongoing. The Dell Creek (Big Piney) fire salvage sale (2MMBF) was completed, using a temporary road which will be closed after sale is completed. Greys River District put up 50 travel posters ("Tread Lightly" signs) before hunting season. Jackson District enforced summer travel plan provisions in high impact areas, (Curtis Canyon, Game Creek, Cache Creek) and physically closed older two track roads where soil and water impacts were occurring. On Pinedale District, timber sale roads were limited to temporary work roads that were closed upon completion.

4.1(b) - There has been so little construction in the past year, the effect on water quality has been minimal.

Forest Challenge: Avoid Unacceptable Effects of Timber Removal

Goal 4.2 - Other resource values are retained or improved as timber is removed from the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

4.2(a) - On Jackson District, 1600 acres of silvicultural exams were completed and are ready for planting in Spring of 1994. Six hundred acres were treated for pest control. Through close sale

administration of small sales, especially in Ditch Creek, and large sales (Gunsight Pass and Cottonwood) resource values were protected. Pinedale District completed 1.3MMBF in the Buffalo Meadows Timber Sales.

4.2(b) - In the Little Hornet Environmental Assessment (on Kemmerer District), timber harvest was evaluated and identified as the preferred alternative to improve wildlife habitat.

4.2(c) - Although total revenue of timber sales is $1,156,709 this year, the Forest is still classified as a below-cost timber sale unit.

4.2(d) - Ongoing. Greys River District modified a timber sale to provide adequate habitat for boreal owls (see 3.3a)

Goal 4.3 - Overall diversity of vegetation and riparian habitats within the Bridger-Teton National Forest are enhanced as timber is removed.

4.3(a) - Ongoing.

4.3(b) - Ongoing. No detailed information available.

4.3(c) - Ongoing. Buffalo District completed first meander rehabilitation in the North Fork Spread Creek Project.

Goal 4.4 - Other resources are protected during exploration and development of subsurface resources.

4.4(a) - The Soda Field on Bid Piney District is being developed. A small surface mine of steatite is operating on Pinedale District.

4.4(b) - Ongoing. Drilling activities on Hunter Creek, Jackson District, were prohibited until after June 30, 1993 due to elk calving concerns. The Hunter well drilling site was closely monitored and administered, and the well site was reclaimed after completion. The Corps of Engineers gravel quarry search centered on National Forest land. We worked with Corps of Engineers to insure they understood our opposition to these sites due to concerns about other resources. Environmental Assessment for Oil/Gas leasing on MA 72 is in progress and it will be completed by May of 1994.

4.4(c) - The Hunter Creek wildcat well was drilled and closed during FY 93. In order to minimize the impacts on soil and water resources from road reconstruction and traffic, all drilling equipment was transported in and out by helicopter and only light duty traffic was allowed during operation.

Forest Challenge: Avoid Unacceptable Effects from Recreation Use

Goal 4.5 - A natural or slightly modified appearance for trails and concentrated dispersed recreation areas is achieved and areas are capable of sustaining human use without unacceptable resource loss or jeopardy to human health and safety.

4.5(a) - A total of 13 miles of trails have been relocated and/or reconstructed (1 mile -- Kemmerer District, 3 miles -- Big Piney District, 1/4 mile in Swift Creek -- Greys River District, 3 miles -- Jackson District, 3/4 mile in Crater Lake area -- Buffalo District, and 5 miles -- Pinedale District). Greys River District moved a snowmobile trail to avoid an avalanche area. Buffalo District closed an old hazardous section of a degraded trail and reconstructed alignment to sustain current use levels. Heavy maintenance was also completed on heavily impacted sections. (Also see 2.5(d)).

4.5(b) - Kemmerer District developed a trailhead facility at Clear Creek, including corral and an outhouse. Jackson District added residential dispersed sites, to a developed campground concessionaire permit for the Hoback and Snake River areas and across from Crystal Creek campground where unacceptable resource impacts were occuring. The Jackson District also continued to inventory dispersed sites in Hoback/Snake River canyon areas and some sites on Jackson District were closed and reclaimed where needed. Residential campers were also moved. Citations and incident reports were written and recorded on computer. Among them, 46 citations were related to occupancy and use, 557 were incident reports.

Forest Challenge: Avoid Effects of Human Use Which are Inconsistent with Wilderness

Goal 4.6 - The wilderness character of Congressionally designated Wilderness is retained or regained.

4.6(a) - The Gros Ventre Wilderness Management Plan was signed. Jackson District completed enforcement action and incident reports on motorized incursions into the Gros Ventre Wilderness. The Putt Putt trail, where mountain bikes frequently violated the wilderness boundary, was relocated. A mountain bike trailhead was constructed where the Cache Creek trail enters the Gros Ventre Wilderness. A WIS (Wilderness Implementation Schedule) for Gros Ventre Wilderness was completed along with the Gros Ventre Wilderness Fire Management Plan.

Buffalo District completed the Wilderness Implementation Schedule for the Teton Wilderness and provided five wilderness rangers to contact visitors and enforce wilderness regulations.

Pinedale District completed the Wilderness Implementation Schedule for the Bridger Wilderness. And also provided five wilderness rangers to contact visitors and enforce wilderness regulations.

Educating people has been an important aspect of maintaining the high-quality of the wilderness environment. The education includes installing signs and group activities such as:

Wilderness trailhead bulletin boards/information posted, maps, and low impact camping/horse posters displayed. At least six trailheads had such information available.

Wilderness Education presentations were made by Jackson District to Hunter Safety classes, high school groups from throughout the country, and Elder hostel groups at Granite Ranch.

Numerous wilderness volunteer groups -- including high schools, Teton Valley Ranch Campers and conservation groups -- were accompanied by wilderness rangers.

Selected outfitters monitored encounters with other groups while in the Gros Ventre Wilderness. Wilderness rangers conducted monitoring - encounters, campsites, outfitter activities, trail conditions, grazing patterns, stream side inventory, and fuel loadings.

4.6(b) - Pinedale District instituted a system where organized groups, horse parties and outfitters were prohibitted from using the Elkhart Area, and the Big Sandy Area in order to lessen overcrowding. Pinedale District also provided information to steer people away from heavy use areas.

(See Annual Wilderness Report).

Forest Challenge: Avoid Unacceptable Effects from Livestock Use.

Goal 4.7 - Grazing use of the National Forest sustains or improves overall range, soils, water, wildlife, and recreation values or experiences.

4.7(a) - Kemmerer District employed two range technicians to construct improvements and to inspect for compliance with Allotment Management Plans. The management has been greatly improved. A fence was constructed in the Ditch Creek allotment on Jackson District for better cattle distribution, grazing conditions. Four water improvements constructed in two different allotments on Jackson District to improve cattle distribution and reduce grazing impacts, and improve wildlife habitat. Pinedale District completed 400 acres prescribed burn in the Little Flattop area to improve forage conditions and implement the new allotment management plan.

4.7(b) - The emphasis placed upon riparian evaluation and inventory this past two years has resulted in improved management of cattle in riparian areas on some allotments. In an impacted portion of Greys River riparian area, 1/4 mile of fence was built to protect riparian area and facilitate recovery. Another 2 miles of riparian fence was built to protect Moose habitat in Fish Creek.

4.7(c) - Ongoing. Greys River District completed the Greys River integrated resource inventory. (See 4.7(a)).

4.7(d) - Utilization standards were met on Big Piney District and Greys River District. The Little Flattop (Pinedale District) prescribed burn completed with a secondary objective of improving forage for elk. (See 4.7(a)).

Forest Challenge: Reduce Interference with and Improve Conditions for Livestock Operations

Goal 4.8 - Livestock operations are not disrupted needlessly.

4.8(a) - Ongoing. Greys River District put sign at Murphy Creek warning people not to harass the livestock.

4.8(b) - Ongoing. Working with local Counties, the Districts utilized beetles and spraying to treat 420 acres of noxious weeds, such as knapweed and musk thistle. Jackson District cooperated with Teton County on enforcement of the certified weed free hay requirement to prevent weed-infested hay from being brought into the county.

4.8(c) - One grizzly bear was relocated from Situation II habitat because of its predation on livestock.

Forest Challenge: Protect Cultural Resources and Natural Features

Goal. 4.9 - Cultural resource values are preserved.

4.9(a) - Ongoing. Greys River District cleared 5 miles of the Lander Trail.

Goal 4.10 - Natural features and landmarks are preserved and retain their settings.

4.10(a)- Ongoing.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

A2 - Implementation monitoring of action items and commitments made in the text of the Forest Plan, Record of Decision, and Forest Plan appeal resolutions - Priority 1.

METHOD:

Compile list of commitments and action items. Review progress towards completion.

RESULTS:

Commitments Made in the 1992 Monitoring Report:

These are reported within the text of the 1993 Report under the corresponding monitoring item.

Commitments Made in Record of Decision:

Allowable Sale Quantity set at 117 million board feet of green sawlogs for the decade. (Record of Decision page 6)

> While the Forest fell below the annual average in fiscal years 1990 and 1991 (see Bridger-Teton National Forest 1991 Monitoring and Evaluation Report, Appendix A), in fiscal years 1992 and 1993, this commitment was met on an annual basis (see Item A1).

Research Natural Areas - Horse Creek, Osborne Mountain, Afton Front and Swift Creek as described in the planning records are suitable for designation as Research Natural Areas. They will be recommended to the Chief of the Forest Service for inclusion in the system. (Record of Decision, page 6)

> The Forest Service has contracted with The Nature Conservancy in a Research Joint Venture to prepare Research Natural Area Establishment Records for the Bridger-Teton National Forest with the Establishment Records due on or before June 30, 1994. (Agreement No. INF-91646-RJUA)

Commitments Made in Forest Plan Appeals:

Forest Plan Appeal #0146 selection of Union Pass road corridor.

Commitments made by Chief of the Forest Service to evaluate the Union Pass Road Project as described in the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to identify the appropriate corridor for the road project.

> This commitment has been met; the Final Environmental Impact Statement has been completed and the Record of Decision signed. The decision was appealed, however, the decision was affirmed with the Forest instructed to carry out the following:

1. The Forest shall conduct further analysis to ensure that the proposed construction of a cow bridge across the Green River (approximately 1/4 mile downstream from the Kendall Bridge), the relocation of 0.9 miles of road near Klondike Creek, and the need for a separate cow bridge at Tosi Creek are necessary components of the Union Pass Road proposal.

2. The Forest must verify the amount of wetlands lost as the result of implementing Alternative 2.

3. The Forest will issue a correction to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) eliminating all reference to the proposed obliteration of the 0.9 mile section of road near Klondike Creek.

4. Further analysis is required with regard to the proposed replacement of an existing single lane vehicle bridge at Tosi Creek with a double lane bridge. The FEIS does not address why the existing bridge is not adequate.

5. Further environmental analysis and appropriate documentation is needed to ensure that the proposed replacement of existing culverts with a bridge crossing Kendall Warm Springs is a necessary component of the Union Pass Road proposal. This analysis and documentation will be carried out in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

6. Additional analysis with regard to private property owners' right of access to their property is needed. Owners of the Snook Moore Ranch must be assured access before the road segment from the ranch to Bacon Ridge is obliterated.

The Forest may proceed with components of Alternative 2 that are not directly affected by those areas requiring additional analysis and documentation listed above.

Forest Plan Appeal #0195

The Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) identified management indicator species, and the Forest Supervisor made an additional commitment to assign an additional four ecological indicator species during calendar year 1990 and provide for public review.

To date no effective action has taken place on this commitment. National planning direction has changed to incorporate habitats as well as species as management indicators. Experience on other Forests is showing that population counts on animal species is of little short-term value. Normal population dynamics due to disease, weather, predation and off-Forest factors (as in the case of neotropical migratory birds) as well as variations in census quality make it difficult to translate annual variations into causal relationships with Forest management activities. Indicator habitats provide a more direct barometer of Forest ecosystem health.

Efforts on a regional basis to define consistent species and habitats on an ecosystem basis have been halted, usually overshadowed by other priorities. The Forest has been attempting to cooperate in a proposed Yellowstone Ecosystem Management indicator list. Securing the commitment of two other regions and six other National Forests has been the primary stumbling block.

Forest Plan Appeal #0194:

By December 1991, to inventory and assess all rivers on lands administered by the Bridger-Teton National Forest for eligibility for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

To amend the Forest Plan to provide protection of eligible river segments.

To target completion of all suitability studies by the end of 1994. Priority will be placed on rivers whose eligibility may be threatened by development.

To follow the procedures and requirements under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; Forest Service Manual (FSM) 1924 and 1950; Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 8; and FSM 1909.15; the requirements for environmental analysis contained in the National Environmental Policy Act; and Council of Environmental Quality Regulations.

To date all inventories have been completed, the Forest Plan has been amended to provide protection for all eligible river segments and a process and schedule has been developed targeting completion of all suitability studies by the end of 1994. The amendment to the Forest Plan was appealed, and the decision of the Forest Supervisor was upheld implying that all appropriate procedures and requirements are being met. Suitability studies have been conducted on seven river segments: the Buffalo Fork of the Snake River, the Yellowstone River, the Gros Ventre River, the Hoback River, the Upper Green River, the Greys River and the Upper Salt River. The Draft and Final EIS are expected to be released in fiscal year 1994.

EVALUATION:

The Forest has made a good effort to meet commitments, however, the commitment made to assign four additional indicator species needs to be acted on.

ACTION:

The Forest needs to resume action on the development of the additional management indicators.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

B1 - Implementation monitoring of desired future condition, management prescription, and standard and guideline use. - Priority 1.

METHOD:

Plan Implementation Studies where completed for the Gros Ventre, Bridger and Teton Wilderness Areas as well as the Lake Alice-Smiths Fork Area (Kemmerer District), the Cottonwood Area (Big Piney District), the Elk Creek Area (Greys River District) and the Moccassin Basin Area (Jackson District). Plan implementation studies were also begun on the Willow Creek and Curtis Canyon areas (Jackson District) as well as continuing on the Buffalo Valley/Rosies Ridge area, North Fork Spread Creek and South Fork Spread Creek. An integrated resource inventory was conducted on the Greys River Corridor.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer District

The Kemmerer Ranger District completed the Lake Alice-Smiths Fork Plan Implementation Study and is in the final stages of completion of the east and West Hams Fork Plan Implementation Studies. Projects proposed for these areas have been reviewed for compliance with the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs).

The District continued to monitor riparian utilization on Fontenelle and LaBarge Creeks in relation to allotment management plans. Utilization on the green line on both of the streams met DFC in 1993.

A decision was made to construct a snowmobile trail on the Hams Fork ridge. This decision will allow the District to meet the DFC for not grooming snowmobile trails in critical wildlife winter range (Hams Fork Canyon).

Big Piney District

Desired Future Condition 1B, 2B, 10 (Grazing use) - A discussion was held with permitees, Wyoming Game and Fish personnel and the Forest Service involving current utilization and the effects of conflicts between cattle and big game (mostly elk). The Forest Service is currently firming up the grazing capacity on the North Piney allotment. The process was explained to the participants. Once the capacity is firmed up, total numbers of permitted cattle-months use will be established.

Desired Future Condition 1B, 10 (Timber) - Post and pole sales have been sold in the Beaver watershed. The Dell Creek fire salvage sale was sold and 75 percent harvested. The Dell Creek salvage was a cooperative project with Wyoming Game and Fish to meet the DFC for this area.

Desired Future Condition 1B, 10, 2B, 12 (Access management) - Pass Creek area was monitored. This entire area was closed to motorized use the summer of 1991. Only one violation was noted this Fall. The Snider Basin area was heavily patrolled. Numerous violations have been reported. The patrols reduced reported violations. Updated travel plans were handed out across the District, increasing the understanding of Forest users to travel management.

Desired Future Condition 6 (Wilderness) - major accesses to the Shoal Creek study area and Gros Ventre wilderness area boundaries were posted in the summer of 1993.

Desired Future Condition 12, 2A (Trails) - Travel reconstruction was done this past summer on the Eagle Creek, South Cottonwood and Wyoming Range trails.

The increased off-road vehicle use occurring in closed areas and damage to the watershed in the allowed "play areas" within the Hoback Basin is on emerging issue. The boundary between the "play areas" and the study area is not noticeable.

Greys River District

The Elk Creek area analysis has been completed and all DFC's were found to be correct. The integrated resource inventory on the Greys River corridor is being compiled and will be evaluated as soon as all the information is in. Information was collated by the District, Supervisor Office, and Region Office personnel and input was given from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Jackson District

Moccassin Basin: All DFC's were found to be correct. No changes proposed; however,it was found that while this area is included in the suitable timber base, timber harvesting cannot or in compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

Willow Creek: It was proposed that DFC 10 in the middle of the Area Analysis, should be changed to a DFC 12. The corridor along the road from Highway 189/191 to the Rim Rock Ranch was proposed to changed to transitional roaded - DFC 12 or 9A.

Curtis Canyon: Changes to DFC's were not proposed for this area.

Buffalo District

As part of the Teton Wilderness Action Plan it was determined that actual uses in some areas did not meet the Desired Future Condition classification. The Citizen Task Force working on the Teton Wilderness Management Plan suggested changes to the wilderness DFC's.

Area analysis is nearing completion in the Lower Spread Creek and Hidden Skull areas. All DFC's have been affirmed through this process and projects which will enhance the DFC have been proposed. Standards and Guidelines are being met or projects to correct the deficiencies have been proposed. A checklist of the Standards and Guidelines, corresponding objectives, projects and monitoring frequency to ensure the Standards and Guidelines are met in the future is provided in each area analysis package. Work is continuing on area analysis of the Buffalo Valley/Rosies Ridge area, North Fork Spread Creek and South Fork Spread Creek. A request for an indepth study of whitebark pine in the South Fork Spread Creek area has been made to help us identify ways to met DFC's in the long term for 7B areas.

Pinedale District

The Bridger Wilderness Implementation Schedule was completed. Minor changes in the DFC are recommended in 6A and 6B in the Upper New Fork River Area. The group encounter standards are being exceeded in many areas in DFC 6C and 6D. Actions are recommended to lessen the number of encounters. Trail density guidelines are being exceeded in many of the DFC's due to the number of nonsystem trails in the Wilderness. The trails will be analyzed and many of them will be closed.

The Green River Plan Implementation Study was initiated with a target completion by FY95.

Update of the District Travel plan is in progress with completion scheduled for Spetember of 1994. Public involvement was completed in FY93.

The following are management actions and projects completed in FY93 by Desired Future Conditions:

DFC 2A - Primitive Recreation

1. Completed routine trail maintenance in all areas with emphasis in the Big Sandy and Elkhart areas.

DFC 2B - Dispersed Recreation

1. Completed routine patrolling, cleanup of dispersed camping areas with emphasis during big game hunting seasons.

2. Issued six snowmobile outfitter and guide permits for commercial use on the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail.

DFC 3 - River Recreation

1. The Wild and Scenic River suitability study for the Green River was completed and the EIS is in progress. Completion of the EIS is scheduled for June of 1994.

2. Completed a five year fisheries habitat improvement project on the Green River. This was a cooperative project with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and consisted of building structures along a five mile segment of the Green River that had been damaged during the "Tie Hack Era".

DFC 6 - Wilderness

1. The wilderness implementation schedule was completed for the Bridger Wilderness and the new Bridger Wilderness Management Plan will be completed by March of 1994.

2. Five miles of trail were reconstructed in FY93.

3. The rehabilitation of Koppen Mine on Scheistler Peak is scheduled for completion in FY94. Much of the planning work and environmental analysis for this project was completed in FY93.

4. Completed 300 miles of routine trail maintenance in the Bridger Wilderness.

DFC 9A - Developed Recreation/FS Administrative Sites

1. Green River Lakes Campground was reconstructed in FY93.

2. Two toilets, one at Fremont Lake Campground and one at New Fork Lake Group Camping Site, were reconstructed to be accessible to the disabled.

3. New corral facilities were built at Big Sandy Trailhead.

DFC 9B - Special Use Recreation Areas

1. Reissued special use permits for Ponderosa Lodge, now named Half Moon Lake Guest Ranch, and that facility is in operation again.

2. Reissued special use permits for White Pine Ski Area and that resort is in limited operation at present with full operation scheduled for 1995.

DFC 10 - Resource Development/Wildlife

1. Completed 400 acre Sagebrush/Aspen prescribed burn on Little Flattop Mountain which was a combination Range/Wildlife project.

2. Completed Sale of 1 million board feet of timber mainly from the Buffalo Meadows area. These Sales were salvage of dead and dying timber and were completed on existing roads. All sales were harvested using partial cut.

DFC 12 - Wildlife Habitat/Big Game Hunting

1. Completed a Wetlands Improvement Plan in cooperation with the BLM at McDowell Flat for Trumpeter Swans and other waterfowl.

2. Met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department about future management of the Kendall Warm Springs Dace. The meeting resulted in the following:
   a. The recovery Plan will be updated in 1994.
   b. The culverts that separate the spring area will be replaced with a bridge as soon as financing can be arranged.
   c. The Fish and Wildlife Service will attempt to begin work on getting a captive population of the Dace started.
   d. A hydrologic study will be completed to determine where the water for Kendall Warm Springs comes from.

EVALUATION:

Based on reviews of completed plan implementation studies and project decisions it appears that Forest Plan direction is being met. No evidence is available either through decision documents, appeals of project decisions or from public involvement that would indicate otherwise.

ACTION:

Initiate NEPA analysis on the potential projects identified in the plan implementation studies and complete additional plan implementation studies.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

B2 - Implementation monitoring of compliance with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines. - Priority 1.

This is the first year of monitoring this item.

METHODS:

A variety of methods have been used to ascertain the degree and quality of compliance with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines (S&G's) in projects, processes and existing conditions. Projects have been reviewed at the planning stage and after implementation via field reviews and public involvement. Processes (i.e., planning efforts such as Plan Implementation Areas, Allotment Management, Wilderness Implementation Schedules, etc.) continue to be monitored in terms of alignment with S&G's as well as follow- through with commitments deemed necessary to achieve S&G compliance. Existing conditions are assessed via scheduled inspections or as problems are identified.

Specifically, Plan Implementation Area planning documents are routinely reviewed by Districts and the interdisciplinary team involved and have several stages of public review. The Buffalo District has developed a comprehensive rating system to compare proposed actions with S&G's. This matrix displays whether a Standard or Guideline is currently being met, if it's possible to improve the situation, if current conditions will constrain future action, and the degree of applicability of each S&G to the planning area. The process also allows for appropriate prioritization of actions.

In the case of Wilderness Implementation Schedules, citizen task forces reviewed each S&G and developed actions to implement and criteria for measuring success.

RESULTS:

Generally, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents complied with Forest Plan S&G's. Other planning documents (examples listed above) also complied with S&G's. Non-compliance would be cause for a Forest Plan Amendment to either justify the exception or to clarify S&G's which are ambiguous. Notably, no amendments were requested except for clarification of S&G's relating to wilderness.

Representative examples of project, process and conditions reviews include:

- Outfitter camps (wilderness and non-wilderness) and permits on the Jackson District were monitored for compliance with S&G's, permit conditions and operating plans. All permittees have agreed to detailed schedules for removal of caches by 1996 and other actions to bring them into compliance with the Greater Yellowstone Area Outfitter Policy (GYAOP). Several permittees have not signed their operating plans but major difficulties are not expected. Permits were reviewed and action taken to move all activities into compliance.

- Teton Wilderness Implementation Schedule - Review of the relevant S&G's resulted in identification of S&G's that require clarification or re-definition. Suggestions were forwarded to the Planning Staff Group.

- Existing soil and vegetative conditions were reviewed in the Sheep Pass area on the Kemmerer and Greys River Districts. Lack of ground cover and erosion were out of compliance with S&G's despite some previous gully plugging and seeding. A strategy for improvement was developed with the assistance of the Intermountain Research Station and a grazing permittee. Additional seeding and watershed work was completed. The area will continue to be monitored.

- Implementation Area plans identified conditions on the ground that were out of compliance with S&G's (such as erosion, substandard facilities, high road densities, etc.). Projects were developed to move those conditions into compliance.

- The Cottonwood/Gunsight Pass Timber Sales on the Jackson District were reviewed with personnel from the District, Timber Zone, and Supervisor's Office to ensure that all contract specifications (especially those included to ensure compliance with S&G's) were being met. Additionally, the Environmental Assessment was reviewed to ensure that the contract reflected objectives and mitigative measures. No discrepancies were found however some internal contract requirements made it difficult to control operations as closely as would be desirable.

- The Greys River Plan Implementation Area was visited on the ground by the Ecology Resources Group several times to assist the District in aligning the inventories and overall objectives with specific S&G's.

- Facilities conditions were monitored on the Buffalo District. District personnel, the Engineering Group and regional inspectors assessed bridge conditions across the District for compliance with S&G's. Two unsafe bridges were removed. The Turpin Meadow Bridge has been moved into a higher priority for reconstruction. District personnel and EPA reviewed public water systems on the District and found compliance with applicable S&G's.

EVALUATION:

There appears to be a thorough awareness by Forest resource managers of the importance of the S&G's and effective actions are being taken to ensure compliance. The comprehensive nature of this monitoring item makes it impossible to fully list all review actions that have occurred.

Some areas of concern and need for increased vigilence have been noted this year and in previous years. Some S&G's are ambiguous, and justification for others needs to be reviewed as their requirements seem to exceed that which is necessary for quality land stewardship.

Using a systematic approach in the Plan Implementation Area process, such as the matrix described above, is the best way to evaluate compliance with Forest Plan S&G's.

There remain many Allotment Management Plans which need to be revised. Funding has been the limiting factor in accomplishing these according to previously published schedules. However, Forest Plan S&G's have been incorporated into all grazing permits.

Lack of dollars and people also has affected the Forest's ability to capture all baseline data which would greatly assist in monitoring conditions and long-term compliance with S&G's. Soil productivity, compactability, water quality and quantity are examples.

Additional information can be obtained by reviewing specific topics within the body of this Monitoring Report.

ACTION:

All special use permits should be systematically reviewed to ensure compliance with Forest Plan S&G's over the next several years.

The Buffalo District matrix for Plan Implementation Area S&G's compliance should be used by all districts.

Amend those S&G's which have been identified as ambiguous, confusing, overly ambitious or inadequate.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

C1 - Cumulative Effects Analysis: Effectiveness monitoring of performance of cumulative effects analysis - Priority 1.

METHOD:

No specific method was devised to monitor general cumulative effects analyses. The formal review specified for each analysis by the Planning Team and Forest Supervisor in the Forest Monitoring Plan is not feasible due to time and logistical constraints.

Formal cumulative effects analysis relating to specific species such as Grizzly Bear Cumulative Effects Model and the Elk Habitat Effectiveness Model are used as appropriate.

All National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents were reviewed by line officers and pertinent resource staff to assure that cumulative effects were evaluated.

RESULTS:

All decisions to conduct surface disturbing activities were based on an environmental review, documented by a project file and analysis complying with NEPA.

There is an on-going problem with application of Elk Habitat Effectiveness (EHE) Model in that it appears to lack sensitivity to specific resource conditions on the Bridger-Teton.

The Grizzly Bear Cumulative Effects Model is consistently used for all projects in Habitat Situations 1 and 2 (Jackson and Buffalo Ranger Districts).

The Forest is working toward the implementation of the Forest Plan through the use of area analysis as outlined in the Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan Implementation Guide. This is a process that evaluates a specific geographic area and identifies possible projects that would move the area closer to the Desired Future Condition as defined in the Forest Plan. Such a process makes analysis of cumulative effects much more feasible due to the identification of project and resource interrelationships both spatially and temporally.

EVALUATION:

The Forest is not doing a satisfactory job of documenting compliance with cumulative effects analysis requirements.

The Forest is completing cumulative effects analysis but not always in a consistent manner between Ranger Districts.

The Elk Habitat Effectiveness Model's value and effectiveness on this Forest needs to be evaluated. Results seem inconsistent and heavily oriented toward access to the detriment of actual habitat components.

ACTION:

Develop guidelines for use of cumulative effects analysis tools to improve consistency and accuracy of data.

Develop a checklist of critical items for NEPA reviewers to use for evaluation of effectiveness of cumulative effects analysis.

A training session focusing on cumulative effects models including definitions, areas of consideration, and minimum resource requirements would be very beneficial.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

D1 - Effectiveness monitoring of performance on emerging issues and resource conflicts. - Priority 1.

METHOD:

Issues are identified based on their potential to alter management actions, priorities and/or direction on the Forest. Issues are grouped by those over which we have direct control locally, those which are regional in scope and lastly, national issues. Typically the Forest has little control or influence over the resolution of the national issues but our actions should support national direction.

RESULTS:

The following are some local issues which are in the process of being addressed:

- Access management - Certain areas delineated by the Forest Plan have a Desired Future Condition which emphasizes non-motorized activities or control over motorized access to protect resources. DFC 2A areas on the Pinedale District have been routinely, and illegally, used by motorized vehicles. The District is addressing this issue in context of their access management planning which has been in progress for two years. Extensive local public input has been sought and appears to contradict the emphasis in the Forest Plan in DFC 2A areas.

- Elk Feedgrounds - Resource degradation is evident around most feedgrounds, primarily over-grazing due to concentrations of elk. Habitat improvement projects are one method the Forest may employ to ameliorate effects, however, minimal action has been taken to date.

- Wild and Scenic River Designation - The Forest is completing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which considers the suitability of seven rivers for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. Public comment on the EIS and political influences will decide which of those rivers will be forwarded to Congress for potential designation. Completion of this study will, in part, satisfy a settlement agreement entered into as a result of an appeal of the Forest Plan. A specific schedule to accomplish the suitability studies on the remaining rivers identified as eligible has yet to be completed.

- Wildlife Herd Objectives - Proposals by the State of Wyoming to radically increase big-game herd objectives within the Forest have not been analyzed in terms of impacts to habitat or recreation use patterns. Further analysis will be necessary to determine if the concept is supportable and merits a Forest Plan amendment.

- Trespass - A Land Encroachment Action Plan was developed late in 1993. The Forest Plan directs that all cases of trespass be resolved by 2000. Aggressive action will be necessary to address all the cases (87) in an effective manner within that timeframe.

- Grizzly Bear Depredations - In the north end of the Forest, grizzly bear were responsible for killing at least 30 cows. Trapping and other techniques allowed within the recovery plan were employed. As bears move further south and increase in number, depredations are likely to continue. The Forest is taking aggressive action to monitor populations and distribution outside of the designated Situation One recovery area, as little attention has been paid to bear population dynamics in this zone. Continued close coordination with Wyoming Game and Fish and US Fish and Wildlife Service is essential.

- Energy Issues - Oil and gas leasing continues on the Forest although the most recent drilling at the Hunter Creek Well came up dry. A local power company is proposing a natural gas pipeline and co-generation plant which may be all or in part on National Forest lands. The City of Afton has applied for hydroelectric generation on Swift Creek utilizing their city water line. No action has been taken to date on these proposals.

- Ski Area Growth - Jackson Hole Ski Area will be completing its Master Plan soon and will increase the current level of visitor capacity by lift replacement/augmentation. White Pine Ski Area near Pinedale will be submitting a Master Plan, and efforts to reopen the abandoned resort will move forward rapidly once approved.

- Gravel Sources - A county task force has published recommendations for sources for this limited resource. A recent NEPA document issued on the Buffalo District allows for extraction of gravel for a highway reconstruction project, but use of the gravel is limited to local needs only. Public interest and opposition to extraction on National Forest lands is very high.

- Wilderness Implementation Schedules - A giant step forward was taken over the past year and a half as citizen task forces participated in developing comprehensive wilderness action plans. The challenge for the Forest will be to continue the momentum and direct sufficient dollars and human resources towards accomplishing the actions identified. Also, the task forces forwarded numerous recommendations for strengthening Forest Plan direction on wilderness management. These recommendations will require non-significant amendments to the Forest Plan. Some NEPA analyses and further public involvement will be necessary.

Regional Issues include:
- Designated Trails - Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail and the Great Western Trail are likely to attract regional tourism and bring many more users to National Forest lands. The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee met recently to focus on this subject and to develop cooperative strategies to deal with the situation. Winter Travel Plans will also help in clarifying objectives and appropriate use areas for the public.

- Winter Recreation - Snowmobile use continues to increase rapidly around the Forest. Effects on adjacent public lands have generated cooperative efforts to provide recreation opportunities and community prosperity based on the snowmobiling visitors. However, the impacts to wintering game populations, social settings, and incursions into wilderness are very real concerns that must be balanced with increasing use. Additionally, administrative costs and personnel needs increase. Future developments such as parking facilities and formal highway crossings are expected to be in demand. The Buffalo District has responded by keeping a temporary worker through the winter, but customer expectations will dramatically increase the demand for a greater agency presence.

- Wolf Reintroduction - All lands adjacent to Yellowstone National Park will be affected to a limited extent should wolves be reintroduced as proposed. The criteria for action will be dependent on the alternative selected. There are no sheep allotments on this Forest which could attract predation in the foreseeable future should wolves be reintroduced.

- Listing of Species - The Bonneville and Colorado River cutthroat trout are two indigenous fish species that have been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Forest has developed a five year management plan for Bonneville cutthroat in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to address habitat problems. This, in turn, may eliminate the necessity of listing. Improvement projects have been focused on sensitive fish species habitat for several years.

National issues that will be affecting this Forest are:
- The Wool Act - Subsidies in the form of wool incentives are to be eliminated. Existing sheep allotments could be vacated or conversions to cattle requested.

- Range Reform - The Forest may incur a significantly larger workload if the fee structure requires numerous vegetative plot readings to determine specific utilization levels. Complexities added to permit administration will increase workload. Marginal livestock operations may go out of business, whereas larger, more cost-effective operations may expand. Concerns regarding maintenance of the ranching culture within some communities have been underscored by segments of the public.

- Below Cost Timber Sales - There are varying levels of concern and interest in this issue, changing with time and venue. The Forest has begun a systematic reduction of potentially deficit green sales to ensure all sales return greater revenues than costs. However, sharply rising timber prices may make this problem moot. All sales on the Forest in 1993 were above cost. Where green sales are reduced or phased out, other wood products will be highlighted. Communities may see a small decrease in economic gains from reduced commercial logging activities. Of perhaps greater concern is the reduction in receipts returned to counties from timber revenues.

- Air Quality - National attention continues to focus on issues of clean air. The Forest maintains a leadership role in utilizing long-term trend studies, advanced computer modeling techniques and cooperative studies with industry on identifying, quantifying and sourcing air pollution in a Class I Airshed.

- Reinventing Government - Efforts to reorganize government agencies may reduce the number of employees, and potentially services, in certain communities. Teams working on reinvention are quite cognizant of the potential negative effects and are striving to develop options which maintain services and an agency presence in all communities where agencies currently operate.

- Bear Baiting - The bear baiting issue has risen to national prominence. The politics of the situation have resulted in delays in identifying appropriate action. This indecision and delay put an unfair burden on outfitters who book clients months in advance of the proposed announcement. If bear baiting is discontinued on National Forest System lands, adequate lead time should be given to allow outfitters to make adjustments in hunting techniques and to avoid bookings for a service that cannot be offered.

- Law Enforcement - A new organizational alignment in Forest Service law enforcement may reduce the amount of services available on the ground but enhance investigations and decrease the appearance of management interference. Until procedures are clarified, the real effects cannot be ascertained.

- Ecosystem Management - New direction within natural resource management agencies encourages an ecological and collaborative approach to meeting agencies' missions. This new approach will likely lead to revision of fundamental processes (planning, budgeting, organization, etc.). Improvements in holistic management are expected as administrative boundaries diminish in importance. The public is likely to become more intrinsically involved in making recommendations and influencing outcomes in natural resource management decisions. Physical, biotic and human dimensions will all be part of inventory, analysis and alternative selection.

EVALUATION:

In general the Forest is cognizant of emerging issues and their potential effects. In some cases, such as grizzly bear depredation, the Forest has worked cooperatively with all parties involved and taken proactive steps to gain more information on the distribution and activities of bears outside of the recovery zone. Management plans for sensitive cutthroat trout are another demonstration of action taken to avoid crises.

Other subjects have not been approached as aggressively. Several factors contribute to this tact: belief that the issue will be resolved regardless of Forest actions, hope that crises will be averted through self-resolution, lack of resources to attack the problem directly, or simply having too many priorities to focus on certain issues.

It is interesting to note that the number and intensity of emerging issues appears to be dramatically increasing, particularly those which will significantly change the traditional operational methods of the Forest Service.

Ecosystem management direction not only shows the most potential to affect change but also has the most consistent and positive public support of any recent initiative. Fortunately, the Bridger-Teton Forest Plan was designed to facilitate integrated resource management and strong public involvement. These,

in combination, are fundamentally similar to ecosystem management. Therefore, the Forest expects that the transistion into this new methodology will be simple and not require amending the Forest Plan.

ACTION

Remain flexible and adaptive to change. Prioritize issues and respond aggressively to those identified as most significant. Increase emphasis on including the public, not just through traditional public involvement methods, but through collaborative planning and innovative methods to encourage information exchange.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

D2 - Effects of implementation of the Forest Plan on local communities. - Priority 1.

After analysis by the Forest Steering Team, it has been decided to include this item in all future Monitoring Reports as an important measure of accomplishment and responsiveness to community needs.

METHOD:

The Forest Plan divides the Forest into Community Interest Areas (CIA's) outlining sections of land capable of providing goods and services to specific communities (Forest Plan, page 248). The effect of activities during 1993 on these Interest Areas was weighed against a list of decadal Opportunities and Activities by Community Interest Area (Forest Plan Appendix A, pgs. 7 - 17) by the Forest Steering Team and qualitative judgements made. See this Monitoring Report's Appendix A: Accomplishments by Community Interest Area for an overview of quantitative achievements since the signing of the Forest Plan (March 1990).

RESULTS:

Overall, Forest management has had a positive effect on local communities.

Opportunities for recreation abound on Forest lands. Considerable effort has gone into improving existing facilities and information about recreation opportunities. Depending on the type of recreation sought, the effect on local economies and communities varies from slight to profound. Visitors bound for the National Parks tend to stay in communities longer when a diversity of recreation opportunities are available. Forest-supplied recreation does not appear to compete with private offerings.

Better access to Forest trails through trailhead improvements increased customer satisfaction, especially among local residents.

Outfitting and guiding continues to bring significant dollars into local communities throughout the year. Permitted acitivites cover all seasons and respond to diverse user groups. Business seems to be increasing steadily. Several operations have changed hands but without a decrease in service. The Pinedale District reports a 76 percent increase in outfitter use.

Improvements to ski areas on National Forest Lands increases the area's competitiveness in national markets bringing more tourists to Jackson Hole. Although a new permittee has taken over the White Pine Ski Resort, improvements have been delayed. The town of Pinedale is anxious to have the Resort back in operation and is becoming quite vocal over the issue.

Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) - reviewed outfitting/guide applications and issued permits. Participated in interagency coordination meetings.

Some larger companies based at a considerable distance from the Forest have begun to bid on timber sales where house logs are available. This has happened only on large sales where smaller, local operators' abilities have been exceeded. Should these larger companies begin bidding on small sales, it could have an adverse effect on local communities.

Forest wood products such as house logs, ornamental trees, personal use firewood, post and poles, and Christmas trees were readily available.

Contracts for construction and supplies are focused on local communities where possible. See the Forest Annual Report for specific figures.

Many natural resource conservation education programs were conducted for local schools.

Wildlife habitat improvements have increased available forage, helped maintain populations and improved age class diversity in a variety of riparian and upland habitats. Since wildlife is a key component of the character of Western Wyoming, these efforts have contributed to the quality of life for local communities. Secondarily, big-game numbers have remained high, drawing locals and non-residents for hunting. Communities benefit from expenditures related to hunting activities.

Fisheries habitat improvements aimed at increasing the viability of populations are occurring throughout the Forest. This increases the quality and number of fishing opportunities, and, as with wildlife, the simple existence of a sound fisheries enhances the quality of life in rural western Wyoming.

Significant effort has gone into analysis of lands available for oil and gas. This has resulted in many acres of lands being parcelled for leasing. Oil and gas developments are important to local economies especially in the southern part of the Forest.

Grazing issues continue to be at the forefront of regional and national debates. Cooperation with permittees in maintaining or improving the quality of Forest rangelands is a high priority. Some numbers of livestock have been reduced for resource protection, some have been reduced for the personal convenience of the permittee. Updating Allotment Management Plans provides state-of-the-art direction. Significant improvements have been made over the past year in riparian conditions in allotments through cooperation of the permittees. The objective of Allotment Management Plans and Forest Plan implementation continues to be long-term enhancement of the quality of the environment and sustainability of reasonably profitable operations.

Travel Plan development for the Forest is proceeding in accordance with Forest Plan direction, however, in order to protect resource values, some historical use and access patterns are changing. This is perceived as a negative impact by some members of local communities.

Permanent and seasonal Forest Service employees spend the majority of their income in local communities. Many purchase homes, pay taxes and volunteer their time to service organizations, school boards and emergency services enhancing the economic and social qualities of the communities.

The Resort Naturalist Interpretive Program, in partnership with various ranches and resorts, jointly hired four (4) naturalists to present interpretive programs. The local resorts consider this program an important part of their summer operations.

The evaluation of Wild and Scenic Rivers eligibility included numerous public meetings and written letters. There were concerns expressed by many of the local population on possible (real or perceived) effects and restrictions of designation.

The Greys River Ranger District received the Star Valley Chamber of Commerce business of the year award.

EVALUATION:

The Forest is striving to meet its commitments to local communities. The Forest Plan is being followed; most planned objectives and activities are being accomplished. Fires have had a direct benefit by making available quantities of timber identified in the Forest Plan that might otherwise have been difficult to obtain.

ACTION:

Continue following Forest Plan direction and being responsive to community needs and concerns.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

D3 - Effects of Forest Plan implementation on adjacent lands - Priority 1.

Although not in the original Forest Monitoring Plan, the Steering Team has concluded that this item shall be continued in future monitoring plans.

METHOD:

A simple survey of the Forest Steering Team was used to gain a qualitative perspective of any positive or negative effects to adjacent landowners.

RESULTS:

Four accesses to the Forest were obtained in FY 93. Two were roads on parcels acquired in fee by the Forest Service and two were trails granted to and acquired by the Town of Jackson. Acquisition of these rights-of-way accomplished Forest Plan Goal 2.7(a) and were consistent with the Forest Plan Lands Prescription, Rights-of-way Standard, Easement Standard, and Road Easement Guideline.

55 acres were acquired by the Federal Government and 52.5 acres were transferred to Hans Graf. This exchange accomplished Forest Plan Goals 2.7(a) and 2.7(b) and the "willing seller-willing buyer" approach was consistent with the Forest Plan Lands Prescription and Road Easement Guideline.

The Sheffield Creek trailhead improvements were made without changing the character or predominate use of the site. Use levels and type did not change during the Fall.

Private landowners adjacent to Forest lands sometimes have problems with people trespassing to get to public lands. The Forest has tried to alleviate this problem by purchasing rights-of-way or changing access routes.

As the Forest resurveys and verifies boundaries, situations of unwitting trespass are discovered, such as fences, structures or other improvements placed on Forest lands. Where feasible, the Small Tracts Act is being used to adjust boundaries to avoid having to move or destroy significant improvements. Small incursions are typically moved by the private land owner.

Permitting elk feedgrounds on National Forest System lands reduces depredation of private hay supplies.

EVALUATION:

Opportunities to work cooperatively with neighbors should continue to be explored. To date, the Forest appears to be treating adjacent landowners in a fair and consistent manner.

There have been no reported cases of resource damage on private lands resulting from Forest activities. Public involvement is critical and has been consistently used especially when proposed activities could have a negative effect on adjacent landowners such as trailhead development, ski area improvements, changes in grazing patterns, and water quality.

ACTION:

Continue land exchanges and acquisitions. Increase the use of rights-of-way acquisitions to provide legal and safe access to National Forest lands.

Continue to use the Small Tracts Act to resolve trespass situations where applicable.

Develop a long range plan to establish Desired Future Conditions and management direction for newly acquired lands.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

D4 - Monitoring of the public's reaction and perception of how well the Forest is following Forest Plan direction. Are we doing what we are saying?

METHOD:

The Forest maintains contacts with interested publics and internal customers through a variety of public involvement techniques. These techniques are used to sense internal and public perceptions of Forest performance.

RESULTS:

The BTNF staff has provided prompt response to Congressional requests, media inquiries, and letters from the public involving BTNF resource management. These responses have often prevented appeals and lead to mediation, negotiation, and settlement of resource issues.

The Regional Forester has been involved when issues have the potential to involve other National Forests and/or other Regions in scope.

Public involvement efforts on the Forest included a Wilderness Task Force for the Bridger, Teton, and Gros Ventre Wildernesses. The taskforces included various individuals from the public and interest groups. Their input will be used in the final development of the Wilderness Planning Implementation Schedules. Special efforts were also undertaken in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Studies. The Forest developed a public involvement process to gather input on which of the seven selected study rivers would be recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Personal telephone calls and visits are made on a continuous basis with key publics on various Forest Implementation projects.

The Forest has adopted the following monitoring evaluation strategies: (1) Monitoring public perception - How are we doing in implementing the Forest Plan? (2) Monitoring public involvement efforts - What techniques/tools work and don't work? Is the public involved with the decision making process? (3) Forest Plan validation - Is the plan consistent with changing values, resource conditions, and cultural changes?

The results of many of these efforts will be published in the Annual Monitoring Report and distributed to the public in May '94.

EVALUATION:

The Forest maintains a "fishbowl" (open and visible) approach to resource management by involving interested publics and agencies in the decision-making process.

The Forest should put more emphasis on making sure people know there is a Forest Plan that directs and guides us. This will be accomplished by news releases, public meetings, and public perception/ customer satisfaction surveys.

The Public Affairs staff should begin focus on public involvement techniques being used, objectives, problems, successes, public reaction, and sugguestions for improvement.

Validation monitoring should be carried out through personal visits and telephone calls with key constituents and interest groups on basic assumptions utilized in establishing the Standards and Guidelines in

the Forest Plan. Recognition of National and local surveys on changing values, resource changes, and cultural changes in resource management will also be utilized in our analysis.

ACTION:

Maintain open communication between affected parties. Involve Forest Service research in finding solutions to various resource problems.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

D5-Effectiveness monitoring of the Forest's public involvement efforts.

METHOD:

The Forest works with individuals and organizations who are potentially affected by, or have appealed a resource management decision by means of mediation and negotiation. This process involves listening and dialoguing with the objective of reaching consensus. A survey of Teton County residents was conducted to assess customer satisfaction with various aspects of the BTNF, including satisfaction with our public involvement efforts.

RESULTS:

Several Districts developed "How are we doing?" customer surveys.

Citizen Task force members provided extensive input into the Wilderness Implementation Schedule development. Information and ideas were exchanged with a greater understanding and appreciation of various uses.

In most instances, issue resolution has been achieved through various types of public interaction. There are however, instances where individuals and /or organizations have not agreed with the specific decisions, but have not faulted the process or the opportunity to participate.

A majority of Teton County residents (58 percent) indicated that they were satisfied with how the Forest involves the public, while ten percent indicated dissatisfaction. Those dissatisfied felt that the public is informed rather than asked and that we could do a better job of reaching people.

EVALUATION:

The Forest is striving to meet the needs of the local community and national public by continued development and implementation of an effective public involvement process. Public task forces, while time consuming, can lend invaluable input to the planning process.

ACTION:

The Forest will continue to involve interested publics in resource management decisions at the earliest possible point in time.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

J1 - Implementation Monitoring of Oil and Gas (Energy) Mineral Leasing: Priority 1

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 1.1 (d), 1.1 (e), 1.2 (e), 1.3 (b), 2.1 (a), 2.3 (a), 4.4 (a)(b)(c))

METHOD:

An environmental analysis process was followed for Management Areas 24 and 35. A draft analysis for Management Areas 11 and 13 was also completed.

RESULTS:

There has been an increase in winter recreation use in all of the Management Areas since the Forest Plan was completed; this increase was not anticipated in the Plan.

Problems with difficult or impossible access to lease parcels, endangered species, sensitive species, visual quality objectives and mapping of elk calving areas were identified.

EVALUATION:

To address increasing winter recreation, visual objectives could be increased for snow play areas. Conflict between winter recreation use and oil and gas activity will be dealt with when an Application for Permit to Drill is received.

ACTION:

A notice of visual resource sensitivity will be included in the MA's lease packages. The decision on how best to access the area and to respond to winter recreation will be determined when a project proposal is received.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

J4 - Implementation Monitoring of Operations: Leasable, Locatable and saleable minerals. (Refer to Forest Plan Objectives: 1.1 (d), 1.3 (b), 4.8 (b))

METHODS:

Hunter Creek Fed. 1-27d

Operations associated with the drilling of the Hunter Creek Federal #1-27d oil and gas well, gravel source, and the staging area for helicopter hauling (Chevron, U.S.A. Production Company) were inspected on a regular basis for compliance with the operating plan, Environmental Analysis, and Forest Plan requirements. In addition, Chevron took regular water samples from Adams Creek above and below all new construction and monitored a landslide area traversed by the access road throughout the duration of the project.

FCU Fed. 23-12

An Application for a Permit to Drill (APD) from Exxon U.S.A. was submitted for a development well 23-12 in the Riley Ridge Field. The APD was approved and drilling operations have begun and are in compliance with the approved APD.

True Oil Field Development

True Oil has submitted a plan for a pipeline system necessary to bring four existing gas wells on line in the Soda Field in the South Cottonwood Creek drainage. The proposal has been analyzed and is within the guidelines established in the Forest Plan.

Sturlin Placer Claim

The Guy Sturlin placer claim (Cottonwood Creek) was inspected for compliance with clean-up and reclamation requirements.

Rodiak Steatite Mining Operation

An on-site inspection of the Rodiak Steatite Mining Operation on Mill Creek was conducted. The operation was checked for compliance with the existing operating plan.

North Fisherman Gravel Pit

An inspection conducted with Sublette County Weed and Pest supervisor confirmed a continued infestation of spotted knapweek in the northern portion of the North Fisherman Creek gravel pit.

RESULTS:

Hunter Creek Fed. #1-27d

Construction and drilling operations complied with Forest Service requirements. After plugging and abandonment, all disturbed areas were restored to natural contour and reseeded. Results of water quality analysis and landslide monitoring were received from Chevron monthly. Remnants of old buildings and trash from Rim Rock Ranch were removed and the Adams Creek Trail was rerouted by Chevron as a copperative effort.

FCU Fed. 23-12

Operations are in compliance with the approved APD and Environmental Impact Statement. A flow line found to be too short was extended to the wellsite.

True Oil Field Development
The BLM is the lead agency to issue the pipeline right-of-way (R-O-W). We are cooperating in the R-O-W approval.

Sturlin Placer Claim
All buildings, trailers, and equipment were removed from the site with the exception of one small wood frame storage building. Disturbed areas were restored to grade and reseeded.

Steatite Mine
The operations appear to be in compliance with the operating plan but there was minimal activity at the site this year.

North Fisherman Pit
Because of the noxious weed infestation, the State Highway Department's plans to produce (rock) chips for road resurfacing were changed to off-Forest sources.

Owners of major volumes of crushed gravel stored in the north end of the pit must continue to wait until seeds are no longer viable or heat the product to 325°F for 12-14 minutes in the drum. Forest, County, and District piles of crushed gravel on the south end of the pit are released from quarantine.

EVALUATION:

Hunter Creek Fed. #1-27d
The reclamation effort has met or exceeded requirements to date. The wellsite will be planted with tree seedlings next spring. Reseeded areas will be monitored throughout the 1994 growing season. The results of water quality analysis showed little or no degradation of Adams Creek due to project activities. Virtually no movement was detected in the landslide area crossed by the road.

FCU 23-12
Monitoring is done and problems addressed.

True Oil Field Development
Well tests produced some water and high-paraffin crude oil. Separators and storage tanks will be needed on or near the wells to store the liquid products.

Sturlin Placer Claim
Although the site looks the best it has in many years, the storage shed needs to be removed and reseeded areas monitored for revegetation success.

Stealite Mine
Monitoring is being accomplished although the current level of activity does not fit the frequency of inspection established by the Forest Plan. At the current activity level and considering the minimal nature of the development, one inspection per year is satisfactory.

North Fisherman Pit
The decision has been made to risk allowing the removal of gravel from the south end of the pit in the Spring of 1994. A record of where the gravel goes will be kept and the locations closely monitored for the possible spread of spotted knapweed.

ACTION:

Hunter Creek Well:
Field monitoring will be continued to ensure successful revegetation for restored pad, staging, trail, road, and gravel areas on the Hunter Creek Fed. #1-27d project. Periodic water quality monitoring will continue

through the 1994 season at the established stations along Adsams Creek. Geotechnical evaluation of 1993 landslide movement data has determined that further slide monitoring by Chevron is not necessary.

FCU #23-12
Oil and gas operations will continue to be inspected for compliance with permit stipulations. Revegetation of the disturbed areas will be done in the Spring of 1994.

True Oil Field
Continued cooperative work with the BLM and monitoring are needed.

Sturlin Gold
Continue work with the operator to assure compliance with the operations plan. Monitor revegetation and take steps to have the storage building removed from the Sturlin placer claim site.

Stealite Mine
Inspect once a year during times of low activity.

North Fisherman Pit
The District worked with Sublette County and the State concerning solutions to the threatening noxious weed problem at the gravel pit. Operations will be allowed in the south end of the pit. No more gravel will be stored in the pit. Record route and placement of removed gravel and have weed specialists monitor those sites annually for five years.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

L1 - Effectiveness monitoring of Travel Plans and Access Management - Priority 1.

METHODS:

Monitoring information regarding road closures and travel restrictions is obtained through a number of channels and methods. Information is gained from employee use (hunting season patrols, recreation guard patrols, fire patrols, etc.) and through feedback from concerned publics. The purpose is to insure compliance with road closures and travel restrictions and to identify areas where violations are most frequently occuring. Patrols occur during the week and on weekends.

RESULTS:

The Districts made an exemplary effort to post signs at locations where Forest users are likely to violate the Summer or Winter Travel Plan restrictions. Throughout the year, numerous travel and access management problems were observed and reported. The Districts responded to these and will make needed changes to the Travel Plan when they are revised and updated.

Efforts were increased to document regulation infractions in incident reports or citations. Some violations were not documented because the violator was not seen committing the violation. Enforcement action was taken whenever education and prevention efforts failed to gain compliance with the Travel Plan. Law enforcement efforts were hampered during hunting seasons because of new direction from the Washington Office concerning issuing of citations by Level II Officers.

The major areas of concern this year were in the Snyder Basin, Upper Hoback/Kilgore Creek area, Dell Creek and Jack Creek drainages, Leeds Creek, Pole Creek/Sweeny Creek, Water Dog Lakes, and Big Sandy/Boulter Lake area. These areas were given priority for patrol work and a strong effort was made to maintain signing.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a notice prior to the hunting season in the local newspapers and radio that it was legal to retrieve down game behind closures with motorized vechiles on BLM land. This led to confusion of what the travel restrictions were and what areas or roads are closed to vehicular traffic on National Forest System Lands.

Sign and road closure structure maintenance is on going. Replacement of old or vandalized signs is done on a as needed basis. This allows for continuous monitoring of problem areas.

EVALUATION:

The number of violations has increased. A significant amount of resource damage is occurring in some areas. The issues of enforcement and apprehending violators continue to be problems. Finalizing the Travel Plan will be a good start to resolving some access management problems. However, it is anticipated that problems will continue to occur in cases where a change is made with the current use.

ACTION:

Continue efforts to monitor, educate customers, and enforce the Travel Plan in an effort to protect the resource while serving the public.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

O1 - Implementation monitoring of dead and down forest fuels inventory.

This item was not included in the Forest Monitoring Plan. It is proposed for inclusion in the 1994 monitoring plans.

METHOD:

Dead and down fuels are defined as woody materials on the forest floor that contribute to the ignition and continued combustion of a fire.

There are no defined, uniform methods for sampling accumulated quantities of fuels across the Forest. A number of accepted sample methods are available, including line transect (Browns Fuel Inventory) and occular estimate method as described in USDA-FS General Technical Report INT-98, November 1981.

RESULTS:

Only one District, the Buffalo Ranger District, completed any formal fuels inventory during 1993. 1,158 acres of the Lower Spread Creek Analysis Area on D-6 were inventoried, which is in addition to 5,500 acres completed last year. Some additional informal fuels inventory was completed by the Supervisors Office fuels crew as part of the Gros Ventre Wilderness fire history survey.

EVALUATION:

Fuels inventory is not defined or required in the current monitoring plan. There are Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines defined by Desired Future Condition (DFC) in the Forest Plan, but to date these standards have not been formally measured or included as part of the implementation process.

ACTION:

Incorporate a *Priority 1* monitoring item for fuels (inventory/loading) under the Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats Intergrated Resource category. Currently this monitoring item is under Policy and Process in an effort to develop an acceptable method to address the Forest-wide standards.

Solicit recommendations to incorporate fuel inventory (loading) into integrated resource inventories (stage II, STEMS, and non-forest types). Until inventory methods are adopted and or funded, an ocular estimate system may be required to evaluate existing conditions against the forest-wide standards. For example -- based on historic weather patterns, what fuel load (tons of dead and/or down) by fuel type (standard or Forest developed) would exceed the defined BTU/foot/second level for more than 90 percent of the regular fire season.

While fuels inventory focuses on defining present fuel loading levels, the Forest's success in bringing areas into compliance with Forest-wide standards may best be measured by the fuels reduction proposed monitoring item (O2).

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

O2 - Implementation and effectiveness monitoring of fuels reduction.

This item is not in the Forest Monitoring Plan but relates directly to multi-resource activities and protection. This item will be evaluated for inclusion in future monitoring plans.

METHOD:

Fuels are defined as down, woody materials on the forest floor that contribute to the ignition and continued combustion of a fire.

Dead and down fuels change naturally (natural fuels) as forest structure changes. They are also modified by human activities (activity fuels), such as by timber harvest or prescribed burning. Human activities may increase or decrease the fuel loadings.

An array of methodologies and techniques are available for monitoring fuels. Forestwide criteria have not yet been defined or accepted. Some Districts record tons of fuels per acre prior to reduction treatments in all clear-cut units in timber sales. This figure can then be compared to fuels loading after treatment to determine if objectives were met.

RESULTS:

Two documented fuels reduction projects were completed this year. The Greys River District used mechanical thinning and prescribed burning to reduce fuels loadings along 40 acres of high-use roads and dispersed recreation sites. The Buffalo District completed a 750 acre thinning and burning project in the vicinity of the Togowotee Mountain Lodge. The project was the result of previous years' inventories that indicated hazardous fuel loadings in this area. This is an ongoing patnership project with the Lodge and will be continued next year if funding allows.

Routine slash disposal on timber harvest units occurred this year, but has not been formally documented.

EVALUATION:

Fuels reduction is not defined or required in the current monitoring plan. While fuels reduction often occurs as a secondary result of habitat burning projects or timber harvest, there has been little formal fuels monitoring.

There are Forest-wide fuels Standards and Guidelines defined by Desired Future Conditions (DFC's) in the Forest Plan, but to date these Standards have not been formally measured or included as part of the implementation process. Furthermore, a risk assessment for prioritizing treatment location and techniques has not been developed.

ACTION:

Incorporate a monitoring item for identification and evaluation of actual fuels treatment projects under the Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats Category. Solicit recommendations to establish a prioritization process that identifies where to reduce risk first and the most cost effective technique under various funding levels. The Fuels Analysis Process (FAP) will accomplish this analysis and should be adopted within two years. Until FAP is incorporated into Forest Planning, a subjective cost versus risk assessment should be used to indentify values at risk that should be selected for fuels treatment.

All aspects of fuels treatment need to be documented, including activity and natural fuels projects.

The monitoring technique would be recording acres of fuels reduction which accomplish Forest-wide Standards and Guides and document pre/post treatment levels. While fuels inventory may be a statement of current condition, the Forest's success in bringing areas into compliance with Forest-wide Standards and movement toward DFC's may be best measured by acres of fuels reduction.

Amend monitoring plan under Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats to include an item for Fuels Management (inventory and reduction) as a Priority 1.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

P1 - Effectiveness monitoring of fire prevention techniques.

This item was not included in the Forest Monitoring Plan. It will be evaluated for inclusion in future monitoring plans.

METHOD:

Statistics on fire occurrence, frequency and cause are documented by the Fire Management staff, but have not been specifically correlated to measure success of the prevention program. The prevention section of the National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS) will provide this analysis in the future.

RESULTS:

Prevention efforts were accelerated this year due to additional funding based on fire severity projections. Increased funding allowed additonal signing and prevention patrols. The Buffalo Ranger District reported 8 wildfires that were discovered and extinguished by patrols before they could grow to any significant size.

EVALUATION:

Fire prevention efforts were accelerated. Resultant success is not quantifiable.

ACTION:

Incorporate a monitoring item for fire prevention under the Protection Integrated Resource Category. Provide documentation that manning levels and fire readiness were maintained in accordance with fire weather.

Solicit recommendations on how to correlate weather/fire conditions, human caused incidents, accessibility and visitor use intensity to provide a quantifiable means of measuring success. Priority Level 1 recommended in view of 1988 fire activity.

An additional monitoring item for evaluating the effectiveness of the fire suppression organization should also be included under the Protection Intergrated Resource Catergory.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Visitor Experience

ITEM:

E1 - Condition of developed sites, dispersed recreation settings, special use facilities, and wilderness. Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Objectives 1.2(d), 2.2(a), 2.3(a), 2.5 and 4.5))

METHOD:

Each District completed a checklist that relates to Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for complying with the Forest Plan. The checklist is intended to be completed in the field where possible. Results from individual monitoring visits were also used.

RESULTS:

In 1993, a total of 41 campgrounds, 12 picnic sites, 14 boating and swimming sites, and 23 minor interpretive sites were open to the public. Three-fourths of the Forest's developed facilities met all standards for facility maintenance and visitor services. An inventory of facilities at all of the Forest's campgrounds was completed in 1993 to record needs and help drive annual work planning for developed site improvement.

One of the more striking changes between 1992 and 1993 was the number of days some campgrounds were full. This was also true between the years 1991 and 1992. Campgrounds on the large lakes near Pinedale, the Snake River Canyon, the Hoback Canyon, and Buffalo Valley were full on many weekends and holidays, and some were full for as many as 70 days of the season. In 1991, these campgrounds were full mostly on high-season weekends and holidays only. A total of 20 campgrounds reported being full on 5 to 45 days. Compared to 1991 and 1992, more campgrounds were full for longer periods. This trend reflects overall increases in recreation use in the region, and suggests that if additional campgrounds are constructed, they should be located in the high-use areas where people want to camp (Pinedale area, Jackson Hole, and Buffalo Valley). There are currently no plans to add new campgrounds on the Forest; rather, our focus remains on reconstruction of existing facilities, and expansion of them where appropriate.

Potable water is available at 30 of the Forest's 41 campgrounds, up from 28 in 1992 and 25 in 1991. New water systems included wells and spring developments.

The Forest has started a schedule for providing toilets which are accessible to all visitors at all developed sites. Between 1994 and 1996, we plan to provide new toilets or reconstruct existing ones at 18 sites to make them accessible to people in wheelchairs.

There are 489 recreation special uses permitted on the Forest, up from 450 in 1992. The majority of permits (333 total) are for outfitting and guiding. Inconsistency in administering these permits has been a problem in the past, and in 1992 we began to address some of them and continued to work toward improvements in 1993. Forest policies for administering summer homes, resorts, and commercial snowmobile permits are in effect, with the intent of assuring consistency across the Forest. The Greater Yellowstone Area Outfitter Policy was updated in 1992, and it serves to guide administration of outfitter permits in a more consistent way.

Dispersed recreation accounts for the greatest amount of recreation use on the Forest. In 1993, visitor information and contacts increased. Over 22,000 visitor contacts were reported by the Districts; this is a great increase from the 9200 contacts reported in 1992. Trailhead facilities have been increased in 1993; there are now 55 trailheads on the Forest with basic developments that include information boards (up

from 33 in 1992). Recreation Opportunity Guides (ROGs) are available on all Districts and at the Forest visitor center. The guides (ROGs) contain information about trails, roads, and attractions, and are divided by activity including hiking, off-road vehicle and mountain bike riding, snowmobiling, and skiing.

Recreation planning continued in 1993 with the completion of corridor studies for Pacific Creek and the Greys River. Complete inventories of the location and condition of recreation facilities, trails, campsites, and attractions were done; these will be used to direct future management and determine needs.

Trail conditions are of great concern to Forest visitors. Although we were able to maintain about 34 percent of the Forest trails in 1993, there are over 2600 miles of trail, and many of these are in need of major reconstruction and maintenance. In addition to the Summer and Fall trails, the Forest currently has over 600 miles of snowmobile trails and 50 miles of marked (some groomed) ski trails.

Wilderness conditions are being monitored (see items F1 and F2) as in previous years. Other accomplishments in wilderness management during 1993 are summarized below.

Action plans for all three wildernesses were completed in 1993. The plans include the following components:
- o Validation or revision of Forest Plan direction for desired future conditions.
- o More complete descriptions of existing conditions.
- o Development of management objectives which specifically describe what needs to be done.
- o Identification of possible actions needed to meet the objectives.
- o Identification of priorities and responsibilities.
- o An implementation schedule with cost estimate and staff time needed to accomplish high-priority tasks.
- o Determination of budget and staff needed to implement the plans.

A Forest wide environmental education team has identified priorities for the upcoming year, based on public comments and input from wilderness task groups.

Planning, information, and implementation of prescibed natural fire (PNF)

Teton Wilderness:
- o Revised Wilderness Fire Plan was approved by the Regional Forester April 1993.
- o District personnel participated in a "dry run" of a (PNF).
- o An interpretative slide show on fire's role in the Teton Wilderness was put together for public presentations.
- o There was one potential PNF this season. The fire was declared a wildfire.

Bridger Wilderness:
- o District personnel participated in a "dry run" of a PNF.
- o One potential PNF was declared a wildfire.

Gros Ventre Wilderness
- o A fire history study was conducted in several representative sites in the Gros Ventre Wilderness. The study included about 3,400 acres.
- o Work continued on a draft Gros Ventre Wilderness Fire Plan. A Final approved plan is expected early in 1994.

Inventory and monitoring: In addition to monitoring human caused impacts and recreational livestock impacts (Items F1 and F2), the following resource monitoring was conducted in 1993:

Teton Wilderness:

An air quality camera was installed on Rosies Ridge looking into the Teton Wilderness. The focal point is a granite face in the South Buffalo Fork drainage. No degradation in visual/air quality was noted in 1993.

Amphibian populations are being monitored at locations outside of the Teton Wilderness. The evaluations of results, indicate that boreal toads may be disappearing from higher elevations areas where they were most common.

Bridger Wilderness:

Air and water quality results have been analyzed; but the results have not been completely compiled in a report.

Trail condition monitoring has indicated that many trail bridges need repair. An inventory of severe erosion problems, multiple trails, and other sections needing attention was begun.

Visitor Contacts

Number of visitors contacted:	**Teton**	**Bridger**	**Gros Ventre**
Total	3376	8167	149
Backpackers	447	6797	39
Horsepackers	2574	1370	39
Day use with stock	93	2294	12
Day use on foot	262	837	59

Reports of visitor desires, complaints, comments, etc.

Teton Wilderness: Complaints include: too many people, outfitter/guides receiving perceived preferential treatment, trails not being cut out early enough. Desires: bigger/trophy elk, and all the above "fixed" (less people, etc.), also heavy maintenance projects in areas like bogs and multiple trails.

Bridger Wilderness: Too many people; conflict between backpackers and horsepackers; heavy trail impacts are causing multiple trails and erosion; conflict between general public and domestic livestock; lack of adequate law enforcement concerning ATV use, illegal outfitting, set-back rules and 16-day stay limit; current campfire regulations are confusing and ineffective.

Gros Ventre Wilderness: Information was gathered primarily through the use of comment cards available at trailheads. Of 21 responses received, the average rating that people gave their wilderness trip was 7.8 of a possible score of 10. Reasons given for high rating of wilderness visits included solitude, good fishing, beauty (scenery, wildflowers), diversity of scenery and habitat, easily walked trails, no litter.

EVALUATION:

In comparing 1993 results with past years, there is evidence of improved conditions at many of the Forest's developed sites, on some trails, and at many trailheads. Education and information efforts continue to gain emphasis, with the continued expansion and success of the resort naturalist program, use of volunteers on many Districts, improved signing and more brochures, and completion of Recreation Opportunity Guides. Problems that still exist include the condition of roads and trails, lack of dust abatement on heavy-use roads, and deteriorated facilities at some of the campgrounds and boat ramps.

In 1991 and 1992, numerous complaints received from the public concerned litter and campsites left in poor condition, large parties, and residential campers displacing recreationists. In 1993, efforts were made to clean up many of the dispersed camps that had become eyesores, remove unauthorized structures and litter, and to close sites that were very close to water and were creating sanitation problems. The total available campsites was not reduced after closures along the Snake and Hoback Rivers because several low-development, overflow campgrounds were added near the Hoback Campground and in the Snake River Canyon.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Forest plan implementation and related analysis for the Wilderness began in March 1992, and wilderness action plans are being completed (January 1994). The implementation schedules were completed by October 1993.

An update of the Snake River management plan, scheduled for 1992 and again 1993, has not begun: it is a high priority for 1994.

One action item for 1992 was completion of Recreation Opportunity Guides (ROG). As of January 1994, all except one District have completed ROGs that are available at Forest offices.

Districts have been meeting with outfitters, resort owners, and owners of Summer homes, to be sure they are aware of current policies and the expections that all permitted activities be in compliance.

Actions to rehabilitate heavily damaged campsites in 1993 included permanent and temporary (one season) closures, removal of unauthorized structures and litter, and conversion of some sites to developed campgrounds to serve as overflow areas. Inventory and management plans for addressing high-impact dispersed camps continued in 1993.

In 1992, a need to increase monitoring of visual quality and effects on eligible wild and scenic rivers was identified in 1993, a total of 45 projects from timber sales to trailhead construction were evaluated to determine their effects on scenic quality. Three minor projects occurred in the corridors of potential wild and scenic rivers, and these were determined to meet Forest plan standards for protecting the river values.

ACTIONS FOR 1994:

Continue inventory of dispersed camps and recreation facilities as part of Forest Plan implementation or through corridor studies.

Begin update of the Snake River Management Plan.

Produce educational materials and programs on natural resources, wilderness, and Forest management.

Continue efforts to improve Forest trails.

Use inventory completed in 1993 to set priorities for developed site maintenance and improvements.

Continue to ask for and respond to public input on priorities and desires for recreation settings and facilities.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Visitor Experience

ITEM:

E2 - Recreation settings; acreage and percent of each District in Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes. Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Objectives 2.3 and 2.5)

METHOD:

Forest-wide Recreation Opportunity Spectrum mapping and revision of Forest travel maps.

RESULTS:

Baseline mapping at 1/2 inch per mile was completed in 1989, and is being verified in Forest plan implementation studies. ROS was to be remapped in 1993, but was not completed. Current travel maps exist for the Bridger West Division (Kemmerer, Big Piney, and Greys River Districts) and the Teton Division (winter only). The Bridger East Division travel plan is currently being updated and is expected to be completed in 1994. There remains a need for correct, current travel information for the Teton Division (Summer).

For all three Wildernesses on the Forest, adjustments were made in the maps showing Wilderness settings (DFCs 6A - 6D). The changes will be reflected in maps accompanying an amendment to the Forest Plan in 1994.

Although base mapping is complete, there is not a complete calculation of recreation settings to use as a basis for comparison when changes are made in the future. No reports of changes to ROS settings were received in 1993.

EVALUATION:

There is a need to include a completed data layer in the Forest Geological Information System (GIS) for recreation settings, to facilitate acreage calculations and to record any changes in ROS settings as a result of management actions.

ACTIONS:

Begin remapping ROS classes based on a corrected Forest transportation map. Open roads, closed roads, and 4WD tracks will be shown separately on new map.

Recalculate acreage in each ROS class after remapping is completed, using the GIS.

Provide the public with correct information on travel management for those divisions of the Forest without current travel maps.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Visitor Experience

ITEM:

E3 - Monitoring of resource conditions at dispersed campsites.

(Refer to Forest Plan Objectives 2.3 and 4.5)

METHOD:

Mapping and recording of impacts on District-specific forms, occasionally supplemented with photographs and maps of the sites. Evaluating previously classified camps and prescribing a management prescription for heavily usedcampsites.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer Ranger District: The District inventoried 15 dispersed campsites during the 1993 season. The following information was obtained:

4 moderate impact camps
11 low impact camps
0 camps with user-built structures
1 camp within 25' of water
4 camps within 25-50' of water

No analysis of monitoring results has been completed at this time.

Big Piney Ranger District: Over 200 dispersed camps were inventoried in 1991/92. During the Summer of 1993, no additional campsites were recorded, but an action plan was developed for those recorded in previous years.

Greys River Ranger District: Approximately 167 dispersed campsites were inventoried along the Greys River. Roughly 50 sites are being evaluated to determine the possibility of improving them to reduce damage to the riverside vegetation and soil. Compilation and evaluation of the data is currently underway. Final summary and results will be available in the Spring, 1994.

Jackson Ranger District: 44 dispersed camp sites were inventoried within the Hoback River corridor from the confluence of Granite Creek to the Snake River. The following information was obtained:

28 high impact camps (Class 3 or higher)
16 low impact camps (Class 1 or 2)
20 of the high impact campsites were converted to fee areas with limited facilities (these areas are referred to as No-name Campground 1 and 2).

As a result of the campsite inventories done in 1992 along the Snake River, the Jackson District closed 15 of the high-impact sites to overnight use. The criteria used to close the campsites were: camps with a condition class of 3 or above, camps within 25-50 feet of open water, places where sanitation problems exist, and camps that fell within the bald eagle habitat zones. To replace sites closed, 20 dispersed campsites were converted into a fee area with limited facilities (toilets, garbage pick-up and fire rings). These sites were located at East and West Table boat launches and across from Station Creek Campgound. Monitoring of public opinion regarding closures and new fee areas indicated a majority of the people polled were in favor of the changes.

Buffalo Ranger District: Most dispersed campsites were inventoried during the 1991/92 field seasons. In 1993, the Pacific Creek Corridor was studied to determine what needed to be done with 15 of the inventoried dispersed camps, the developed sites, and the trailhead facilities at the end of the road. The following resource damage and user conflicts were noted: grizzly and livestock use, potential human/bear conflicts, livestock in the camping areas (both developed and dispersed), poor transportation design resulting in main trails transecting heavily used camp sites, and resource damage occurring at dispersed sites. Alternatives, integrating strategies for reducing conflicts, were developed for the management of the corridor. These strategies will be implemented through Forest Plan Implementation.

In addition, inappropriate structures (meat poles that were too low, hitch rails and corral poles) and trash were removed at dispersed sites across the District. The number of structures and sites requiring cleanup has decreased overall.

Pinedale Ranger District: There were no dispersed campsites inventoried during 1993. However, in a number of dispersed camps in the Upper Green River, Union Pass, and Squaw Creek drainages, unauthorized structures (ie. toilets, corrals, etc.) were removed and cleaned.

EVALUATION:

Dispersed campsites throughout the Bridger-Teton National Forest are getting more attention. High-impact camps are being closed and rehabilitated. Improved facilities and improved transportation designs are being implemented within high-use corridors to reduce user conflicts and resource damage. Planning is being done by involving people who use the area. As a result, we are finding that people are accepting the changes being made.

ACTION:

Actions to improve dispersed campsites on the Bridger-Teton National Forest are being completed through the Forest Plan implementation process. Needs in each area where dispersed camping exists are being identified. Some alternative actions for treating high-impact campsites include: closing areas to dispersed camping, closing and rehabilitating specific campsites, or building facilities at popular sites so they can withstand heavy use. The Greys River and Jackson Ranger Districts have closed high impact sites with seasonal and long term closures. To be sure these campers have a place to camp, other sites have been improved to accommodate the concentrated use.

Actions for 1994:

Kemmerer Ranger District: As a result of the area analysis done on the LaBarge Creek area, approximately 30 dispersed campsites will be inventoried in 1994. These sites will be mapped and photographed and management prescriptions developed.

Big Piney Ranger District: Perform corridor studies to determine which sites need to be rehabilitated or improved to accommodate heavy use. Increase patrolling, visitor contacts, campsite cleanup, education, and traffic control.

Greys River Ranger District: Compile and evaluate data obtained during the 1993 corridor study. Determine proposed actions to accommodate dispersed camping use on approximately 50 sites. Provide final summary on the corridor study by the Spring of 1994.

Jackson Ranger District: Continue monitoring closures and newly established fee areas along the Hoback and Snake Rivers; determine if all closures should stay in effect; determine if other camps need to be closed; inventory dispersed campsites within the Granite Creek drainage.

Buffalo Ranger District: Complete analysis on existing inventories and present recommendations for dispersed campsite management during Forest Plan Implementation (area analysis) for Lower Spread Creek, Hidden/Skull, Buffalo Valley/Rosies Ridge and North Fork Spread Creek management units. Begin process for two new analysis areas.

Pinedale Ranger District: Continue identifying concentrations of dispersed campsites. These sites will be mapped and photographed. Camps with sanitation problems will be cleaned up and illegal structures will be removed.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Visitor Experience

ITEM:

E4 - Implementation monitoring for compliance with Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's).

(Refer to Forest Plan Objectives 2.5(a), 2.5(b), 2.5(c), 2.5(d), 4.1(b), 4.4(b) and 4.4(c))

This item was not included in the Forest Monitoring Plan but is of significance to a large segment of the public. It will be evaluated for inclusion in future monitoring plans.

METHODS:

Updating Visual Resource Baseline Data: This process includes the verification of sensitivity levels, variety classes and distance zones to determine Visual Quality Objectives (VQO). It is also the verification of Existing Visual Conditions (EVCs) on the Forest. Once this baseline information is available, comparing the effects of management activities to existing visual conditions will allow assessment of Visual Quality Objectives compliance.

Pro-active Involvement of Landscape Architect at Planning Stages of Project Proposals: This includes field visits to verify baseline information and assist in the development of alternatives which would meet adopted Visual Quality Objectives, as well as, reviewing all environmental documents.

Before and after photographic documentation.

RESULTS:

To date, Management Areas (MAs): 11-13, 22-26, 31, 32, 35, and 41-49 have updated baseline visual resource data. The remaining MA's are being completed through the Plan Implementation process and the Forest's Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Project Plan Review:

Highway Department Proposal in Snake River Canyon
Teton Village Lift Improvement Proposals
Beaver Creek Timer Sale Proposal
Badger-Twin Aspen Treatment Proposal
East Fork Hams Fork Aspen Sale Proposal
Little Hornet Vegetative Treatment Proposal
Highway Maintenance Site Proposal
Teton Village Master Plan
Army Corp. of Engineers Gravel Source Proposals

Photo records have been started on most of the above projects to document existing visual conditions.

The following is a summary of project activities by Ranger District and the results of the field monitoring accomplished:

Kemmerer:

Number of projects this year with effects on natural landscape, including timber sales, road projects, wildlife habitat projects, etc.	6

Number of projects above which meet the VQO. 6

Results of field monitoring visits:
ID Team visits to sites determined VQO's adequately planned for and met. Visual observations were made from visually sensitive areas with no adverse effects observed.

Big Piney:

Number of projects this year with effects on natural landscape, including timber sales, road projects, wildlife habitat projects, etc. 2

Number of projects above which meet the VQO. 2

Results of field monitoring visits:
The two projects were timber sales. The VQO's were established by ID teams and were adequately addressed. Visual observations were made with no adverse effects.

Greys River:

Number of projects this year with effects on the natural landscape, including timber sales, road projects wildlife habitat projects, such as small timber sales and Swift Creek water line. 4

Number of projects this year which met the VQO. 3

Results of field monitoring visits:
The small timber sales met the VQO'S. The Swift Creek Water Line did not meet the Retention VQO. Retention will be achieved in 3 to 4 years when natural vegetation recovers.

Jackson:

Number of projects this year with effects on the natural landscape, including timber sales, road projects, wildlife habitat projects. 6

Number of projects this year which met the VQO. 5

Results of field monitoring visits:

Hunter Creek Oil Well	Met the VQOs of Retention and Partial Retention.
Dry Cottonwood Timber Sale	Met the VQO's
Goodwin Lake Trailhead	Does not meet the VQO of Retention. Additional work has been recommended for next year to improve disturbed areas along access road and fill slope of parking area.

Cache Creek Trailhead	Rehabilitation efforts on road, in dispersed camping areas and along creek banks has improved the visual resources of the area.
Snake River Canyon	Closure of several dispersed camping areas has improved the visual resources as seen from the Highway.
Hoback Canyon	Closure of several dispersed areas has improved the visual reources of the area as seen from the Scenic Byway.

Buffalo:

Number of projects this year with effects on the natural landscape, including timber sales, road projects, wildlife habitat projects, etc. 16

North Fork Spread Creek Fisheries and Watershed Improvement - refer to item G15 and K7
Lily Lake Wetland Improvement Project
5 Timber Sales
3 Wildlife Habitat Improvement Prescribed Burns - refer to item K6
Fuels Reduction Project behind Togwotee Lodge - refer to item O2
Heli-Repel Tower (on District compound)
Watchable Wildlife/Hazard Reduction Site
Sheffield Creek trailhead reconstruction
Angles trailhead reconstruction
Rosie's Cabin boardwalk construction

Number of projects above which meet the VQO 15

Results of field monitoring visits:

the Heli-Repel tower did not meet Retention VQO but all other sites retained the VQO for the area.

VQO was enhanced with the completion of the fuels reduction and North Fork fisheries project with a return to more natural conditions.

Lily Lake project visual effects are not noticable (with the exception of the earth work at itself), as it will take a few years for water level to rise to it's full potential. It is expected that with this gradual rise, the natural appearance of the site will not be effected. the earth work, while currently visible, is expected to be completely grown over with vegetation by the Summer of 1994.

Visual blackening of the prescribed burns, with the exception of 25 trees that were burned, was almost completely covered by early Summer with the new vegetation growth.

VQO was enhanced at Sheffield Creek and Angles Trailheads where previous use was not limited to developed areas and resource damage was occurring

with the visible effects of rutting and vegetation loss in the meadow and surrounding areas.

Pinedale:

Number of projects this year with effects on the natural landscape, including timber sales, road projects, wildlife habitat projects, etc. 15

Green River Lakes Campground Reconstruction
Little Flattop Mountain Prescribed Burn
Buffalo Meadows Timber Sales
Boat Ramp Improvement projects
North Beaver Creek Vegetation Treatments

Number of projects above which meet the VQO. 15

Results of field monitoring visits:

Green River Lakes Campground was monitored through the design and construction phase. When the revegetation of the exposed areas is successful, it should meet the Retention VQO.

the Little Flattop prescribed burn will meet the VQO after the grass and other vegetation greens up in the spring.

the Buffalo Meadows Timber Sales, since they were partial cuts salvaging dead trees and since they were located off the main travelway, met the VQO.

All five boat ramp improvement projects were designed to meet the VQO's.

the North Beaver Vegetation Treatments were designed to meet the VQO's.

EVALUATION:

Updated baseline information has facilitated in the analysis of several of the proposed projects listed above.

Pro-active monitoring of project proposals has helped in developing alternatives which are sensitive to the visual resource.

Pro-active monitoring has facilitated in identifying needs in Forest Plan Amendments.

Compliance with Visual Quality Objectives for remaining projects (listed above) cannot be determined until projects are implemented. Photo records will be kept as this occurs.

ACTION:

Complete Forest-wide Visual Quality Objectives mapping for baseline information.

Incorporate updated baseline information into Geological Information System data base.

Continue pro-active monitoring of projects during the planning stages.

Continue photo records of projects as they are implemented and as new ones are proposed.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Visitor Experience

ITEM:

F1 - Monitoring of human-induced impacts on Wilderness setting - Campsite Conditions. Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Objectives 4.6(a) and 4.6(b))

METHOD:

Campsite conditions were recorded using the Frissell rating form throughout the 3 Wilderness areas and are reported here. Additional monitoring of human-induced impacts are reported in the attached Wilderness monitoring report.

RESULTS:

Gros Ventre Wilderness: 88 campsites were inventoried in 1993, using the same campsite rating form as in 1992. A summary of findings is listed on the table below. Figures shown do not include designated outfitter campsites.

Campsite Conditon by Impact Rating Class and DFC

Condition Class Rating 1-5	DFC 6D	DFC 6C	DFC 6B	DFC 6A
Class 1, minimal impact	2	8	10	0
Class 2, low impact	7	15	6	0
Class 3, moderate impact	6	9	4	0
Class 4, high impact	3	12	4	0
Class 5, severe impact	1	1	0	0
Total Campsites by DFC:	19	45	24	-

Bridger Wilderness: A total of 21 lakes with 152 campsites were inventoried using the same campsite rating form as in 1992. The results are described in the following table. Figures shown do not include designated outfitter campsites.

Campsite Conditon by Impact Rating Class and DFC

Condition Class Rating 1-5	DFC 6D	DFC 6C	DFC 6B	DFC 6A
Class 1, minimal impact	0	13	12	19
Class 2, low impact	2	25	16	5
Class 3, moderate impact	6	31	4	1
Class 4, high impact	0	18	0	0

Condition Class Rating 1-5	DFC 6D	DFC 6C	DFC 6B	DFC 6A
Class 5, severe impact	0	0	0	0
Total by DFC:	19	45	24	-

					Frissel Ratings				
Lake	**DFC**	**#Sites**	**# <200' from H2O**	**# <200' from Trail**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Granite Lake	6C	7	6	0	1	1	2	3	0
Rainbow Lake	6B	14	9	7	4	8	2	0	0
Thompson Lake	6B	5	3	0	4	1	0	0	0
Hidden Lake	6B	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Long Lake	6D	8	4	4	0	2	6	0	0
Long Lake	6C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Lake	6A	4	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
Frozen Lakes	6A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bridger Lakes	6A	13	4	0	7	5	1	0	0
Lightning Lakes	6B	12	10	5	3	7	2	0	0
Wall Lake	6A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elbow Lake #2	6A	8	7	3	8	0	0	0	0
Barbara Lake	6C	11	5	5	2	6	1	2	0
Hobbs Lake	6C	21	11	2	2	6	10	3	0
Island Lake	6C	47	28	19	8	12	18	9	0
Deep Lake	6B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temple Lake	6B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS (17 lakes)	**all**	**151**	**88**	**45**	**44**	**48**	**42**	**17**	**0**

Teton Wilderness: Campsite conditions were recorded for 114 camps, this includes 78 general and 36 outfitter/guide camps. These were not Frissel Class inventories, but did contain general information on whether or not camps were 100 ft. from trails or 100 ft. from water, horse holding method used, percent use of graze and food storage technique used (or not used). In addition, the 36 assigned outfitter/guide camps were inspected both in the Spring prior to use and in the Fall when occupied.

Big Piney Ranger District (part located in the Gros Ventre Wilderness): No campsites reported in the Wilderness.

EVALUATION:

Existing Forest Plan Guidelines in effect for Wilderness campsite conditions are as follows: in DFC 6A - no campsites, 6B - restore campsites in condition class 3, 4 and 5 to meet Class 2 or better, 6C - maintain condition class 3 or better, non-permitted campsites in classes 4 or 5 will be restored and naturalized, and permitted campsites will be managed to minimize visual impact and comply with the Standards for Class 3, 6D - no campsite condition class standards are written. These Standards and Guidelines were revised in the Wilderness Action Plan and Implementation Schedule development. The new Standards will be in effect when the Forest Plan Amendment is completed.

Bridger Wilderness: 58 percent of the sites inventoried are within 200 feet of water; 30 percent of the sites inventoried are visible from trails; physical impacts at campsites generally fall within acceptable DFC standards.

Gros Ventre Wilderness: There is a significant number of camps recorded in DFC 6B and 6C which exceed Forest Plan standards.

Teton Wilderness: No analysis of the data was completed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Through the development of Wilderness Action Plans and Implementation Schedules for all three Wilderness areas, Forest Plan Standards were reviewed and/or revised and Management Objectives and potential Action Items were developed for all aspects of human-induced impacts to Wilderness. A monitoring plan was also developed for each Wilderness. These will direct monitoring efforts in future years.

Significant Changes:

In the Bridger Wilderness, 622 sites were naturalized and 3,538 lbs of trash were packed out (about 1,800 lbs of this came from an abandoned outfitter's camp). In the Teton Wilderness, 82 sites were naturalized, 1,070 lbs of trash packed out, and over 300 picket pins, 50 non-standard meat poles, and numerouse hitch rails were removed.

ACTION:

Complete Forest Plan Amendment process for the 3 Wilderness Plans. The standards developed will then be in effect for 1994.

Continue monitoring campsite conditions and recording significant changes, using the new standards. Restoration efforts should be directed to those areas where standards are being exceeded and/or condition trend is uncertain or downward. Refer to individual plans for DFC standards.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Visitor Experience

ITEM:

F2 - Monitoring of recreation stock impacts in Wilderness

(Refer to Forest Plan Objectives 3.3 and 4.5.).

METHOD:

1. Recreational stock use was analyzed for each area by Citizen Task Forces working with Forest Service staff in developing Wilderness Action Plans and Implementation Schedules for the bridger, Gros Vertre and Teten Wilderness areas.

2. Additional campsite monitoring including percent grazing by recreational stock, was completed in the Teton Wilderness. District Range staff conducted ocular inventory of riparian areas.

RESULTS:

1. As part of the above mentioned process, range condition data was summarized and analyzed, related Forest Plan Standards reviewed and/or refined, and Management Objectives and Action Items developed. A monitoring plan, including recreation stock use impacts, was developed. For the Teton Wilderness this concentrated on summarizing data collected in 1991 and 1992. For the Gros Ventre Wilderness, data collected by Wilderness Rangers in 1992 was compared to a 1962 range study to determine "red flag" areas and general condition trend.

2. In the Teton Wilderness, 114 camps were inspected by Wilderness Rangers. This includes 78 general and 36 outfitter/guide assigned camps that were inspected twice. The percent use of grazing associated with recreational camps varried from 20-80 percent. Primary concerns were amount of surface area disturbed and damage to tree roots. Riparian areas were inventoried by the District Range Conservationist who attributed all of the heavy range use in riparian areas to recreation livestock grazing (refer to item H4). Specifically, utlilization in Yellowstone Meadows is above 50 percent due to recreational livestock. No inventory of impacts from recreational stock was reported for the Gros Ventre or Bridger Wildernesses.

EVALUATION:

1. The analysis of range data and discussions by the Task Force resulted in well thought-out descriptions of Desired Future Conditions, Standards and Management Objectives for 6A-D areas, as well as the development of a list of potential actions to improve conditions, provide future monitoring, and increase visitors understanding, awareness and sense of personal responsibility for impact resulting from recreational livestock. Specific action items were included in the Implementation Schedule which includes costs, and will be important in obtaining future funding.

2. In the Teton Wilderness, primary concern is in riparian areas and particularly in Yellowstone Meadows. General campsites with percent utilization over 40 percent (Forest Plan Standards) is another emphasis area.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

The Wilderness Action Plans and Implementation Schedules completed for each of the Wildernesses include recreational stock use. Specific standards as to what are the acceptable conditions for meadows used by recreation stock, management objectives, and action items to implement when conditions are exceeded and to prevent impacts, were developed. Refer to individual plans for specific items.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Visitor Experience

ITEM:

K5 - Validation monitoring of potable water quality in developed recreationand administrative sites. Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Objectives 1.3(a) and 1.3(b)).

METHOD:

All potable water systems need to be tested in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Forest Service Manual regulations. Systems are located in campgrounds, picnic areas, and administrative sites throughout the Forest. The engineering stuff on the Forest determines chemical testing that needs to be performed, orders the bottles from Ford Chemical, labels them and sends them to Districts. Districts perform routine bacteriological testing. Results are furnished to the enginineering stuff every November for inclusion in the potable water inventory update.

RESULTS:

Analysis will be completed in late February, 1994.

EVALUATION:

Trends from 1991 show the following percent increase in compliance with required bacteriological testing:

	D-1	D-2	D-3	D-4	D-6	D-7	Total
1991	89%	74%	75%	89%	52%	58%	74.1%
1992	97%	95%	94%	81%	94%	89%	89.7%

Although results will not be compiled until late February 1994, the combined total for 1993 in the area of bacteriological testing is expected to be approximately 96 percent.

The Forest total for chemical testing in 1991 was 96.7 percent, 100 percent in 1992 and is expected to be near 100 percent in 1993.

ACTION:

- Perhaps the only way to properly emphasize the importance of bactteriological testing is to make it a part of individual performance ratings as some Forests have done. This was recommended to the Deputy Forest Supervisor and the Forest Engineer as part of an Regional Office review this past Spring.

- A training session was held this past spring for all of the Districts. Representatives were present from EPA, the county laboratory and the Regional Office.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Visitor Experience

ITEM:

L2 - Road Maintenance

METHOD:

Condition surveys

RESULTS:

Formal condition surveys were conducted on the Jackson, Kemmerer, Greys River, and Big Piney Ranger Districts and informal surveys were conducted on all the Ranger Districts this year. the condition surveys conducted indicate serious problems with Forest roads. Problems primarily are associated with inadequate or non-functioning drainage and basically worn out road surfaces. the informal condition surveys were conducted to assess road maintenance practices and the current condition of Forest roads. Informal condition surveys are normally conducted on all high priority roads to assess yearly maintenance needs.

EVALUATION:

Generally, the Forest's roads are in very poor shape with a vast majority needing heavy maintenance to major reconstruction including surfacing and drainage work to bring them to a level that could be easily maintained. Yearly maintenance is scheduled for Forest high priority, heavy traffic roads. Maintenance budgets preclude much more than one blading per year on high priority roads, therefore there are numerous complaints from Forest road users, both Forest Service and public.

ACTION:

1. Conduct formal condition surveys on high volume, high priority roads and work at programming road maintenance work and reconstruction projects on high priority roads.

2. Develop Forest Road and Access Mangement Plan.

3. Develop Forest action plan for road management including road management objectives, condition survey schedules, and survey procedures. Plan will be used to set Forest Road Maintenance priorities.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Visitor Experience

ITEM:

L3 - Validation Monitoring of Traffic - Priority 2

METHOD:

Measure road traffic use and type of use through traffic counting devices and traffic component sampling.

RESULTS:

Roads: Traffic counters are installed on the Greys River Road and the Gros Ventre Road. Traffic information has been compiled for the Greys River Road and it appears that traffic volumes, as was the case last year, remain high, especially during high use times such as hunting season. The counter installed on the Gros Ventre Road is a simple cumulative type of counter with nothing more than cumulative numbers of vehicles.

EVALUATION:

At this time only a small sampling of data has been compiled. Traffic component monitoring is not being done.

ACTION:

1. Expand traffic monitoring to more roads to obtain more uniform Forest coverage of high use roads. Start random sampling of traffic component on high use roads.

2. Develop Forest action plan for road management including road management objectives, condition survey schedules, and survey procedures. Plan will be used to set Forest road traffic monitoring priorities.

VEGETATION AND TERRESTRIAL HABITATS

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

G1a - Vegetation Management Practices - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 2.1(a))

METHOD:

Monitor vegetation manipulation projects to determine success on meeting prescription objectives and desired future condition.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer District - Photographed and visually inspected the Coal Creek exclosure and adjacent areas for changes in vegetation composition. Visually inspected the 1992 willow plantings in Coal Creek. Coal Creek willow plantings show a 50 percent success rate after the first year. Visually inspected aspen regeneration in the Indian Mountain area. Aspen regeneration is adequately stocked with sprouts averaging between three and six feet in height.

Greys River District - Inspected critical elk winter range on the south end of Middle Ridge. The desire is to increase elk usage and minimize conflict with sheep grazing. Coordination with the Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and sheep grazing permittees is producing options to maximize vegetation production and condition.

Jackson District - Big game habitat manipulation projects in the Gros Ventre River Drainage and Lower Hoback River Drainage are intended to revert vegetative communities to early and mid-seral stages and improve productivity. These projects involved a combination of prescribed burning, aspen cutting and range pitting and were evaluated jointly by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Forest Service personnel during 1992 and 1993. A progress report is currently being developed and will include mapping efforts, big game distributions on treatment areas, vegetation species composition, forage utilization, and forage production. The report is intended to outline the finding of this two-year monitoring effort. Long term monitoring programs are being developed for places like the Gros Ventre and the Lower Hoback River Drainages.

Buffalo District - Over 1,000 acres of winter range were treated by prescribed fire in past years. This year, burned and unburned sites were sampled (clipped and weighed forage samples) for forage production. Production was higher in the burned sites and, subsequently, use was also higher.

Pinedale District - One nested frequency, cover and paired-plot study was established on proposed aspen treatment units within elk calving areas. Vegetation composition data will provide baseline data to analyze the success of management prescriptions. These have been completed for both future and past prescribed burn projects.

EVALUATION:

The Forest Plan provides for habitat security by maintaining undisturbed zones adjacent to concentrated human activity. Time-limiting stipulations are applied to elk calving areas. Additionally, the Forest Plan emphasizes aspen-type perpetuation especially in elk calving areas, big game wintering ranges, and stands where type loss or conversion is imminent. In most cases, these criteria are being met.

ACTION:

Continue to treat sagebrush and willow systems with prescribed fire to meet vegetation and winter range goals.

Gather baseline data to understand and evaluate vegetation management prescriptions and their impact on wildlife and other related resources.

Vegetation management activities enhance diversity of plant communities and various successional stages of those plant communities. Care will continue to be taken to protect wildlife associated with treatment areas.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial habitats

ITEM:

G1b - Big Game Populations - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 2.1(a))

METHOD:

Annually review trend and classification counts of big game populations with Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer District - Field reviews are planned in the Hams Fork and La Barge watersheds for the presence of moose and to make preliminary determinations on possible effects of snowmobile traffic. Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WG&FD) big game population surveys were reviewed and preliminary work has begun to determine the most effective census methodology.

Greys River District - Fall field reviews concluded that elk populations seem high while moose populations seem slightly down, and deer populations seem very low. These points will be raised during future discussions with WG&FD.

Jackson District - Periodic flights were flown from December through April to locate and document elk, deer, moose, and bighorn sheep densities on designated crucial winter ranges. Data will be used to monitor distribution patterns on designated crucial winter range and associated habitat treatments. This is done in cooperation with the WG&FD.

Buffalo District - Weekly road surveys of elk and moose densities were conducted during the winter in the Buffalo Valley. Elk and moose populations were also monitored in the Buffalo Valley through the use of a fixed wing aircraft in cooperation with WG&FD. Finally, pellet transects were used to judge the amount of big game use taking place within and outside of burned areas. Elk populations in the Valley are over WG&FD objective levels. Moose populations appear to be at objective level.

Pinedale District - The District met or exceeded big game population objectives for elk, moose and bighorn sheep. The Sublette deer herd was below objectives in 1993. This is believed to be related to the drought conditions followed by extreme winter weather.

Forest-wide big game populations are meeting or exceeding Wyoming goals, except the Sublette deer herd. Following are the estimated number of animals that spend a part of the year on the Bridger-Teton National Forest: Elk 25,000; Deer 45,000; Bighorn Sheep 1,000; and Moose 6,500.

EVALUATION:

Controversy exists between the sportsmen of Lincoln and Sublette Counties and the WG&FD personnel concerning population levels for the Wyoming Range deer herd. Sportsmen estimates are half of the Department's estimates. Sportsmen are claiming mismanagement of the herd by the Department with attention slowly being focused in the winter range habitat conditions. The Department is pursuing raising the herd's population objective from 42,000 to 50,000.

The Forest Plan provides habitat protection of big game feeding areas, crucial winter range, and crucial migration routes. Time-limiting stipulations are applied to areas where big game are present.

Effectiveness monitoring is mandated by the Forest Plan. Periodic field reviews assist in evaluating transportation plans.

REPORT ON 1993 ACTION ITEMS:

Monitoring efforts in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is on-going. Implementation of Forest Plan Standards and Guides is on-going.

ACTION:

Carrying capacities of summer, transitional, and winter ranges need to be assessed as well as the ecological condition of habitats before the Forest can agree with raising population objectives.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

G6 - Management Indicators

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 2.1(a))

METHOD:

Riparian and old-growth areas will be monitored by tracking vegetation and wildlife population trends. Baseline counts will be used to determine the most appropriate monitoring sites. All key habitats will be monitored by tracking trends in habitat diversity, such as total acres, age class, and condition. Wildlife habitat relationship models will be used to interface predicted trends in habitats with those of wildlife populations.

RESULTS:

Jackson District - Population trends of the Brewer's Sparrow were evaluated for correlation to the District's prescribed burning program which is primarily aimed at improving big game winter habitat. Point count and line transect methods were employed in five treated and five control/non treated sagebrush-grass communities. Prescribed burning appears to initially decrease sparrow numbers as they require mature stands for nesting. Brewer's sparrow populations recovered as the sagebrush component increased following treatment. Twenty to thirty year old burns supported the highest number of sparrows. Literature review indicates a mosaic of early to late-seral sagebrush is optimal for the Brewer's sparrow and is the overall goal of habitat manipulation.

Buffalo District - Monitored amphibian populations as indicators of riparian health. Most populations appear to be doing well, boreal toads however may be disappearing from higher elevation areas where they were once common. Volunteers were funded to complete management indicator and sensitive species surveys.

EVALUATION:

There is a concern that wildlife population counts may show variations due to off-Forest conditions, disease or other factors not related to management actions taken on the Forest. Habitat conditions may be a more reliable monitoring tool.

ACTION:

Develop a plan in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to begin monitoring management indicator species for special and unique habitats on the Forest.

Participate in and support all efforts to identify a core group of habitats that can accurately reflect the effects of management activities on the local environment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

No progress was made on the 1993 action items and have been repeated as action items for 1994.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

G10 - Open Road Densities - Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 2.1(a))

METHOD:

Periodic update/revision of travel and transportation plans by District; road density analysis using Forest Plan Standards.

RESULTS:

Jackson District - The Teton Division Winter Travel Plan was updated after two years of implementation monitoring. Travel management and access management was reviewed for Management Areas 42 and 45 (Curtis Canyon and Willow Creek) during the area analysis process. The Summer Travel Plan was not reviewed during 1993. In three areas, road density declined due to road closures (Cache Creek, Curtis Canyon Area, and Dry Cottonwood Creek).

Buffalo District - Recognized the need to close additional roads in the Squaw Basin and Baldy Mountain areas. Identified areas where gates would be effective. These gates will be installed in coordination with Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Pinedale District - The travel plan is being updated. This includes identifying existing open road densities and devising alternatives to meet Forest Plan objectives for open road density.

EVALUATION:

Road closures have reduced open road densities, but data does not exist to determine pre and post open road densities across the Forest.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

The Bridger-West Travel Plan is being implemented. System roads are being evaluated for sediment yield and upgraded where needed. Closed roads are being blocked and signed. Obliteration of abandoned roadways will occur as projects come on-line.

ACTION:

Travel and Access Management Plans will continue to be updated as part of the Area Analysis process. Elk habitat effectiveness models will be run when deemed appropriate.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

H1 - Rangeland Trends/Benchmark Studies - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 4.7(a))

METHOD:

Benchmark studies will be established to determine if trend and range condition objectives of the Allotment Management Plans are being met. There will be at least one benchmark area for each grazing unit or allotment.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer District - Trend benchmark areas have been established on a couple of allotments. One Nested Frequency Plot was re-read on the Hams Fork Allotment. The study showed the area to be in a stable trend.

Big Piney District - Trend benchmark study areas have been established on all allotments. These studies are scheduled for reading every ten years. Nine trend studies were scheduled for reading in 1993, with a target of eight. Five studies were completed (one study could not be located and three studies were not read due to the lack of necessary plant development). Level I data was collected through the use of ocular analysis and Interdisciplinary Team meetings. These were held on Nylander and South Cottonwood Creeks. Data reveals that these areas largely meet Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines. Future study schedules were revised so that no more than five studies are scheduled in any one year.

Greys River District - Two site analysis transects were reread on the Big Greys Allotment. Trend is stable. A line intercept transect was established. Sagebrush is 14 percent on the site with 72 percent of the plants being seedlings. An Allotment Management Plan revision is scheduled for 1994. A prescribed burn is planned for 1996 and is necessary to discourage the dominance of the rapidly encroaching sage.

Jackson District - Benchmark studies will be established to determine the trend in range condition and to ensure that objectives of the allotment management plan are being met. This year, several habitat treatment areas were evaluated for vegetation species occurrence and forage production. Prescribed burns (both aspen and sagebrush-grass), aspen cuttings and range pitting treatments were monitored for their effectiveness in improving rangeland trend and forage production. Forage utilization was evaluated by measuring production in grazed vs. ungrazed plots and comparing the results with utilization of elk feedgrounds and crucial winter range. In general, trend and production results are favorable following vegetation treatments. At a few sites responses have been slower in reaching desired objectives. A detailed report of monitoring efforts on these habitat treatment projects is in preparation.

Pinedale District - 42 nested frequency studies have been established on the District. None were scheduled to be re-evaluated this year.

EVALUATION:

Program funding falls short of the dollars necessary to complete one benchmark study per grazing unit or to locate/identify potential natural communities. Until substantially higher funding levels are reached, related Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines will not be met.

The rangeland condition on the majority of the Forest is in a stable or upward trend. As problem areas are identified and corrected, the vegetative trend on the Forest will continue to improve. Increased funding of the range program would increase the progress currently being made in this area.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Some progress was made on the 1993 action items as reported above, and have been repeated as action items for 1994.

ACTION:

Location of potential natural communities (PNCs) is necessary to determine the condition of the vegetation in adjacent or similar areas. Complete the establishment of benchmark areas and continue to monitor the vegetation trend of the Forest's rangelands. Evaluate benchmark locations in relation to Allottment Management Plan objectives.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

H2 - Rangeland and Proper Use - Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 4.7(a))

METHOD:

Establish proper use criteria and monitor using techniques stipulated by the Allotment Management Plan.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer District - Fourteen allotments were monitored for proper use, using ocular estimates and greenline measurements. With little exception, all areas were within the guidelines set in the Annual Operating Plans and met Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines.

Big Piney District - Vegetation use levels have been established for all cattle allotments. Use on domestic sheep allotments are based on a once-over grazing system. To determine proper use, measurements are made on the percent of vegetation being trampled, ground cover, and species composition. Vegetation use level inspections were documented on "Ocular Grazing Impact Forms," "Unit Examination Forms" or "Forest Monitoring Forms" on 16 of the 25 allotments grazed in 1993. Several allotments had multiple inspections throughout the grazing season. The third and final grazing capacity study was completed on the North Piney C&H Allotment. Analysis of this data is on-going.

Greys River District - Most cattle allotments were field reviewed and fell within Forest Plan utilization standards. Dry Creek and Big Greys Allotment were measured using a utilization gauge. These allotments averaged 61 and 60 percent respectively. Most sheep allotments were also field reviewed and utilization was estimated.

Jackson District - Most cattle allotments were field reviewed by District range personnel. Forage utilization averaged 35 to 55 percent. Utilization by elk in portions of Upper Cottonwood Creek and Carmichael drainages averaged approximately 60-80 percent. Riparian areas were very lightly utilized this year (less than 20 percent). This may be due to the cold, wet summer. Elk congregated together longer than normal and cattle did not seem to linger in the riparian zones.

Buffalo District - All District allotments were field reviewed. The District average utilization was 25-35 percent with the exception of scattered areas throughout Squaw Basin. Utilization in these scattered areas will be reduced during better growing seasons and with reduced Grizzly Bear activity.

Pinedale District - Grazing impact studies were conducted on 14 allotments. All allotments with the exception of one, were within established utilization standards. The District as a whole is well within the Forest Plan and Allotment Management Plan utilization standards. One association of grazing permittees assists the Forest Service in gathering utilization data. Current range funding does not provide for utilization studies on all allotments.

EVALUATION:

Utilization data is used to firm up grazing capacity estimates and support necessary changes in allotment management plans in order to meet resource management objectives. It is used to determine the effectiveness of prescribed grazing systems and identifies priority areas where management efforts should be concentrated to achieve proper use on an allotment.

Recommendations for changes in grazing management practices and adjustments in stocking levels are made based upon the observations and measurements made in these reports. Grazing systems that work in meeting resource management objectives are affirmed by these inspections. The need for additional range improvements and identification of emerging issues and opportunities are also documented.

Program funding falls short of the dollars necessary to complete adequate utilization studies. Until substantially higher funding levels are reached, related Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines will not be met.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR REPORT:

Some progress was made on the 1993 action items as reported above, and have been repeated as action items for 1994.

ACTION:

Continue monitoring vegetation utilization and adjust use levels as necessary to meet the land management objectives. Use information to build case files on individual allotments to update Allotment Management Plans.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Policy and Process

ITEM:

H3 - Implementation monitoring of livestock distribution and grazing practices. - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 1.1(h), 1.2(c) and 4.7(a).)

METHODS:

Direction in the Forest Monitoring Plan calls for conducting and documenting inspections on all stocked allotments to insure compliance with grazing objectives. Lack of resources allows for such action on only a sampling of active allotments, primarily by ocular estimates. Allotments that typically have problems receive a higher priority.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer District - 14 allotments were inspected. Most of those inspected were in good condition. Some allotments have problem areas due to past use. Those in less than good condition will be addressed in the annual operating plan for the associated allotment.

Big Piney District - Annual operating plans were prepared for all allotments. Compliance inspections were documented on ocular grazing impact forms, unit examination forms or forest monitoring forms on 16 of the 25 allotments grazed in 1993. One show-cause letter was sent notifying the permittee that future violations would result in permit action.

Greys River District - Management seems to be improving. Livestock were usually found in the proper locations. Three allotments had repeated incidences of inappropriate livestock distribution. Two cases of unauthorized livestock were found. Most allotments reviewed appeared to be stable or in improving condition. Declining conditions still exist on a couple of allotments and in specific areas. Priorities have been set for further review, but progress is slow due to limited funding and personnel.

Jackson District - Range readiness was checked at least ten times during June and early July. Grass production was slow due to the cold, wet spring. The range was deemed ready for utilization at a later than normal date and livestock were kept at lower elevations to allow grasses a chance to mature at higher elevations. Forage production continued to be slow, especially at elevations above 8000 feet.

Blackrock District - All three allotments were checked. Blackrock/Spread Creek had several small areas in Squaw Basin where 50 percent utilization (the Forest maximum for season long grazing) was reached. The rest of the allotment averaged 30-35 percent utilization. Pacific Creek and Burro Hill allotments averaged 25-30 percent utilization.

Pinedale District - Fifteen allotments received inspections, and 16 were checked for range readiness. All but two allotments were in compliance with allotment management plans and operating plans. Seven of the allotment inspections and all range readiness checks were conducted with the permittee.

EVALUATION:

This was a good forage year at low elevations due to cool temperatures and high precipitation although range readiness was delayed and forage season shortened. Livestock tended to remain in appropriate areas due to adequate food supplies. Some neglected fences were maintained on the Greys River District further contributing to proper livestock distribution.

The cool temperatures on the Blackrock District acted to concentrate the livestock due to a shorter than usual grazing season. Grizzly bear depredation disrupted normal patterns of movement and contributed to concentration.

Recommendations for changes in grazing management practices and adjustments in stocking levels are made based upon the observations made in these reports. The need for additional range improvement is documented as well as the identification of emerging issues.

Problems found were immediately discussed with the permittee(s) and corrective actions taken. These problems and corrective actions are reviewed at the next annual permittee meeting and documented in the next year's annual operating plan. Trespassers had legal action initiated against them.

Grazing systems that meet resource management objectives are affirmed by these inspections. Where successful management was noted, commendations were given, and one cattle association was nominated for a national award for range stewardship.

REPORT OF 1993 ACTION ITEMS:

Implementation of specific grazing practices and range improvements were completed in operating plans, administrative actions and permit modifications. Range funding is not adequate to inspect every stocked allotment as required by the Forest Monitoring Plan.

ACTION:

Continue monitoring compliance of Forest Plan and Allotment Management Plan objectives. Continue monitoring vegetation utilization and take the necessary administrative action to resolve known problems. Use information to build case files on individual allotments to update allotment management plans.

Use and share information on effective range management techniques. Commend and encourage those permittee showing dedication to, and compliance with allotment management plans and annual operating plans.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

H4 - Validation monitoring of rangeland conditions - Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 4.7(a))

METHOD:

Update the range analyses on each allotment, big game winter range, and other rangeland areas.

RESULTS:

No range analyses updates were performed on livestock allotments. The lack of adequate funding of the range program has resulted in the reliance on data from range analysis work that was completed 15 to 20 years ago.

EVALUATION:

The Forest needs updated range analyses performed on identified tracts of rangeland to keep abreast of possible changes in range condition. Problem sites need to be reviewed in order to determine the fastest, most ecologically sound method of rehabilitation.

ACTION:

The Forest is in the process of developing potential natural community (PNC) scorecards which are needed to determine range condition for specific plant communities. They will be used extensively to evaluate range condition. Follow-up Level II inventories will be conducted on those areas which have been identified for further study. Progress on both the scorecards and any associated inventories is extremely slow due to the absence of any funding to support such efforts.

Seek internal and external cooperative efforts to assist in the collection of information to firm-up the vegetative condition of the Forest's rangelands. Take needed administrative action to insure the range condition is maintained at desired levels.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

H5 - Noxious Weeds Control Efforts - Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 4.8(b))

METHOD:

Conduct studies to monitor changes in vegetation to determine success of noxious weed control projects.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer District - 70 acres of noxious weed infestations were treated using a combination of spraying, grubbing and biological control. Noxious weeds treated include musk thistle, Canada thistle, Dyer's woad, henbane, and yellow toadflax. New infestations of Dyer's woad and yellow toadflax were mapped.

Big Piney District - 50 acres of noxious weed infestations were treated. Associated noxious weeds treated include: musk thistle, spotted knapweed and tall larkspur. Photo records are kept on the treatment site and re-evaluated the next year for effectiveness of the treatment. A cooperative agreement has been established with Sublette County Weed and Pest for the treatment of noxious weeds on National Forest System Lands.

Greys River District - 214 acres of noxious weed infestations were treated using a combination of spraying, grubbing and biological control. Noxious weeds treated include musk thistle, Dyer's woad, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge and yellow toadflax. The District noxious weed inventory was updated for the district. Known infestations are being monitored and controlled. New infestations are being inventoried, treated and monitored. This year yellow toad flax spread vigorously.

Jackson District - 89 acres of noxious weed infestations were treated. The District is using an integrated approach to control noxious weeds (chemical, mechanical and biological treatments) and is working very closely with Teton County. *Rinocyllus conicus* is still active and flourishing, helping to control various musk thistle patches. Musk thistle, Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, and Dyer's woad were all chemically treated this year. Also, numerous Forest users (predominantly equestrian) were checked for the type of hay being fed on National Forest lands. Uncertified hay was reported to Teton County officials.

Buffalo District - 13 acres of noxious weeds (mainly musk thistle) were sprayed. New patches of musk thistle show up every year and it appears to be getting more widespread.

Pinedale District - 8 acres of noxious weeds treated. Species treated include musk thistle, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, whitetop, and spotted knapweed. As inventory efforts are expanded, more noxious weed infestations have been documented. A cooperative agreement has been established with Sublette County Weed and Pest for the treatment of noxious weeds on Forest System lands.

EVALUATION:

As inventory efforts have expanded, more noxious weed infestations have been documented. Treatments appear to be working, but some previously treated areas may need additional attention. For example, on the Kemmerer District, Dyer's woad populations that have been treated for three consecutive years are disappearing. Meanwhile, new populations are found in other areas of the district each year. On the Jackson District, musk thistle was held in check while spotted knapweed seemed to increase in abundance, especially adjacent to stands of knapweed on private land.

REPORT ON 1992 ACTION ITEMS:

Some progress on Action Item (a) was made; i.e. cooperation with the Wyoming Department Game and Fish has increased across the Forest.

Action Item (b) is considered on-going and repeated for 1994 (see below).

ACTION:

Continue inventory efforts and monitor treated areas to determine success. Maintain accurate location maps of control efforts as well as infestation areas. Increase public involvement, including expanding the use of certified hay, to raise public awareness of the noxious weed situation on the Forest.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

I1 - Reforestation - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 4.2(a))

METHOD:

Stand examination surveys for all reforestation areas. This information is recorded in the Timber Management Information System (TMIS) as part of our corporate database.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer District -	76 acres of first year tree survival completed. 211 acres of third year tree survival completed. 40 acres of third year stocking surveys completed. 79 acres of 5th year exams completed.
Big Piney District -	294 acres of first year tree survival completed. 195 acres of third year tree survival completed. 170 acres of fifth year tree survival and subsequent certification completed.
Greys River District -	85 acres of first year tree survival completed; 98+ percent survival. Third year tree survival yet to be completed.
Jackson District -	41 acres of first year tree survival completed. 84 acres of third year tree survival completed. 686 acres treated for gopher control.
Buffalo District -	430 acres of tree survival completed.
Pinedale District -	176 acres of first year tree survival completed. 40 acres of third year tree survival completed.

EVALUATION:

First year examinations: Success remained high with a survival rate of 80 - 100 percent of newly planted trees. Minor losses were attributed to gopher damage and to the droughty growing conditions.

Third year examinations: Areas surveyed had survival rate of 65 - 100 percent. Losses were primarily attributed to gopher damage.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Progress was made on 1993 action items are reported above. Those that are on-going are repeated for 1994.

ACTION:

Future Type 4 examinations are planned in areas certified as having met stocking guidelines to determine any future stand improvement needs. Tree thinning will be performed to retain hiding cover for big game wildlife species. Thinning in Desired Future Condition 1B areas will be performed to maintain wood fiber growth. Follow-up examinations will be completed as specified.

Future compressed stand exams are being planned in areas certified to determine any future stand improvement needs. Tree thinning will be performed to retain hiding cover for big game animals. Thinning in Desired Future Condition 1B Areas will be performed to maintain wood fiber growth.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

I2 - Suitable Land for Timber Harvest

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 4.2(a))

METHOD:

Stand examinations were completed on lands identified in the Forest Plan as being suitable for timber harvest. Stand exams involve taking measurements of selected vegetation attributes at various locations. Suitability maps are updated based on the results of stand exams along with refined inventories of soils and geomorphology.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer District -	2000 acres of stand examination completed.
Big Piney District -	787 acres of stand examination completed.
Greys River District -	450 acres of stand examination completed.
Jackson District -	2000 acres of stand examination completed to document the present condition of aspen stands.
Buffalo District -	Completed maps of suited timber base on four Analysis Areas using information from the Grizzly Bear Habitat Model and Forplan. Stand examinations were not completed this year.
Pinedale District -	687 acres of stand examination completed.

EVALUATION:

Collection of stand examination data is not sufficient to validate either technical suitability or Desired Future Condition suitability. Stand examination data is useful in validating vegetation types which were used in the suitability assessment. Where stand examinations were collected, they validated the vegetation types used in the initial Forest Plan analysis.

No indications of any need for Forest Plan modification have become apparent through the monitoring process. The number of trees per acre average well over the Forest Plan Standard. Growth potential in nearly all cases meet or exceed crown closure and hiding cover requirements.

REPORT ON 1993 ACTION ITEMS:

200,000 acres of Order III Integrated Resource Inventory was completed on the Pinedale District. Compilation of the Bridger-West Soil Survey continues and maps will be digitized to update the Forest geographical information system corporate database.

Progress was made on the 1993 action items as reported above. Those that are on-going are repeated for 1994.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

I3 - Clearcut Size Limitation - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 4.2(a))

METHOD:

Validation monitoring of the size of timber harvest areas. Effectiveness monitoring assesses the effects of clearcut size on other resource areas.

RESULTS:

No clearcuts were found that exceeded Forest Plan size standards. Of the total 776 acres that were affected by tree removal, 772 acres were partially cut leaving a majority of trees. Only 4 acres were clearcut or had a majority of trees removed. No effectiveness monitoring reported.

EVALUATION:

There is no basis for changing clearcut size limits prior to establishing effectiveness monitoring. Selection harvest should continue to be used for the reduction of insect and disease threats, increasing the vigor of understory trees, and reducing competition for light in even-aged stands. Salvage sales should continue to use small patch cuts where appropriate.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Progress was made on 1993 action items that are reported above. Those that are on-going are repeated for 1994.

ACTION:

Use existing five year stocking certifications as a monitoring tool which would determine if size and design of clearcuts are meeting resource objectives.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

J1,2&4 - Mineral Leasing, Mineral Operations, & Minerals Reclamation

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 4.2(a))

METHOD:

Interdisciplinary field review with operator.

RESULTS:

Jackson District - Trailers were moved from an exploration site in August after 13 years occupancy. The operator has since cleaned the site. One small plywood building with a concrete slab is the only structure remaining. The operator has recontoured the disturbed soil, planted grass and fertilized the disturbed area to USFS specifications.

Buffalo District - Monitored to assure that test holes in the Squaw Basin areas were refilled.

EVALUATION:

Exploration or mining sites will continue to be fully rehabilitated upon completion of a given project.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Reclamation success has been, and will continue to be monitored.

ACTION:

Activity has been accomplished by a private operator. Continue to monitor and enforce reclamation of the site.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

K2 - Soil Compaction, Revegetation, and Erosion Control - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 1.3(a))

METHOD:

Field inspections by resource professionals and engineers. Soil condition will be based on five projects per year selected by interdisciplinary team as part of the Forest Plan Implementation process.

RESULTS:

Kemmerer District - Conducted a field inspection of Green Knoll and Big Park. Evidence of earlier restoration efforts was present, though not meeting Forest Plan revegetation guidelines.

Big Piney District - 12 acres of erosion control (gully plugging) and 48 acres of road ripping and seeding were completed. 3000 acres of inventory was completed on the Piney Watershed. Several previously installed (1979 and 1989) gully plugs were monitored and found to be effectively curtailing accelerated erosion. Conducted a field inspection of the Pickle Pass Allotment. Coneflower, bare ground, and gopher activity was evident where livestock could congregate in the flat open meadows. Accelerated sheet erosion was apparent. The North Cottonwood pipeline rehabilitation was reviewed.

Greys River District - Conducted a field inspection of the old Wyoming Sheep Driveway from Sheep Pass to Corral Creek Lake. The Sheep Pass area still had large areas not revegetatated. Some of the areas seemed to be associated with snow catch areas or wind blown areas. Some of the vegetation were pioneer species not generally available from commercial sources. Swift Creek was also reviewed to determine what rehabilitation should be implemented following the City of Afton water project completion.

Jackson District - Access management including off-road vehicle use was reviewed across the District last year. Two-track roads will be evaluated for use and treated to reduce resource damage. Barriers will be placed across two-track roads in unstable land types. Other projects such as a Lower Valley Power & Light installation, a Jackson Hole Ski Area trail project, the Hunter Oil Well reclamation field, and Battle Mountain Electronic projects were also monitored.

Buffalo District - Monitored structures for erosion control in Sagebrush Flats, Grizzly Creek and North Fork Spread Creek. Installed and monitored the success of structures in or on North Fork Spread Creek, Grizzly Creek, Squaw Basin and Flagstaff Road. Existing structures appeared to be correcting watershed and erosion problems, however, minor repair was needed in several areas.

Pinedale District - Potential watershed impacts as well as soil and vegetation conditions are being considered during the analysis of a travel management plan. Specific sites will be identified during the analysis process to monitor the success or failure of the new travel management plan in reducing compaction, accelerating revegetation, and controlling erosion problems. For example, Green River Lakes Campground was inspected following the reconstruction project. The boat access area along the lake was highly disturbed. Gullies had formed along the road and had impacted associated riparian areas. Sediment from the road was present in the lake adjacent to the boat access area. Outlined potential resource criteria to evaluate access alternatives. The Bridger-East Integrated Resource Inventory completed 200,000 acres of soil and vegetation inventory.

Forestwide - Rehabilitation seed mixes were developed to control soil erosion and enhanced compliance with project objectives: Sheep Pass Restoration, Tri-Basin Road and Skid Trail Rehabilitation, Phillips Ridge Trailhead, and Cache Creek Trailhead.

EVALUATION:

Kemmerer District - Rehabilitation seedmix applied to the Sheep Pass area, October, 1993.

Big Piney District - Pickle Pass Annual Operating Plan needs to be revised to comply with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines. North Cottonwood pipeline rehabilitation complies with Forest Plan.

Greys River District - Old Sheep Driveway north of Sheep Pass seems to comply with Forest Plan except where snow catch areas occur. The moisture that came in 1993 (following six years of drought) greatly enhanced the vegetative cover .

Jackson District - Reclamation completed and complies with Forest Plan.

Pinedale District - The boat launch area should be reviewed to determine appropriate practices to be implemented to protect the riparian areas and the water quality of Green River Lake.

Forestwide - Most revegetation projects across the Forest comply with the Forest Plan rehabilitation standard. Past gully plugging has proven to be a good tool to heal small head cuts and gullies. This work is often documented in a case file and periodic reviews are made to see how well the gullies are healing.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Rehabilitation projects were evaluated for compliance with the Forest Plan. The abundant moisture greatly enhanced vegetative response. Seedmixes were designed to meet project objectives and control soil erosion.

ACTION:

Forestwide - The Forest is consulting the Intermountain Research Station for assistance with restoration and rehabilitation seedmixes and techniques. The Forest will continue to monitor rehabilitation projects for compliance with the Forest Plan rehabilitation standard. Native seed mixes will be designed to meet site objectives and control soil erosion. Where possible, seed for revegetation should be collected on or adjacent to the site to be rehabilitated.

Kemmerer District - Design and implement a compaction study in the Hams Fork and Fontenelle plan implementation areas.

Greys River District - Design and implement a compaction study along the Greys River.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Vegetation and Terrestrial Habitats

ITEM:

K6 - Burn Area Rehabilitation - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 1.3(a))

METHOD:

Effectiveness monitoring of burn-area rehabilitation. Problem soil areas, such as hydrophobic conditions, low fertility, or deficient soil moisture areas, will be identified. Treatments will be recommended to rectify the problems.

RESULTS:

Big Piney District - Dell Fire (1992) was field reviewed to evaluate timber salvage potential. Several areas were observed to have destabilized as a result of the fire. Ponded areas were also present due to excess moisture release. Cliff Creek Fire (1992) was field reviewed and had not revegetated very well.

Greys River District - Corral Creek Fire (1988) was field reviewed. There were some debris flow areas observed along Corral Creek.

Jackson District - The Dry Cottonwood Fire (1991) was evaluated for suitability of salvage sale operations. 41 acres of reforestation was completed and approximately 1,600 acres have been designated for future reforestation projects.

Buffalo District - All past prescribed burns appear to be revegetating quite well. A burn on the south slope of Burro Hill did not burn very well, but where it did, the grass is noticeably taller and thicker.

EVALUATION:

Big Piney District - Most of the burned-over area had not revegetated and would not comply with the Forest Plan. Salvage operations (Dell Fire) avoided unstable areas, and wet areas were treated early in the year with cable winches or when the soil was frozen to prevent resource damage.

Greys River District - Most of the burned-over area has revegetated and complies with the Forest Plan. The debris flow did not deteriorate the water quality of Corral Creek or any associated tributaries.

Overall, burn-area rehabilitation projects comply with the Forest Plan rehabilitation standard. 1993 was not a major wildfire year, therefore, future rehabilitation efforts may be slightly reduced.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Rehabilitation of burn sites have been and will continue to be monitored. Effectiveness monitoring was conducted to evaluate rehabilitation efforts. The added moisture greatly enhanced vegetation response.

ACTION:

Continue to monitor prescribed and wildland fire areas to evaluate their revegetation progress. Poorly responding areas should be identified and retreated.

RIPARIAN AND AQUATIC HABITATS

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Riparian and Aquatics

ITEM:

G15 - Effectiveness monitoring of fisheries habitat improvement projects - Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Objective 2.1(a) and 3.3(b))

METHOD:

Evaluation of habitat improvement effectiveness in relation to project objectives. Visual inspection of structural improvements to determine maintenance needs on an annual basis.

RESULTS:

Implementation monitoring of existing fisheries habitat improvement structures was completed on 178 fisheries habitat improvement structures in 1993. Inspections of improvement structures were completed on Lamb Springs, Little Greys River, Nameless Creek, Big Fall Creek, Salt Creek, Grizzly Creek, Green River, and Tosi Creek. This is approximately 55 percent of the total number of structures known to exist on the Forest. Maintenance needs were identified and, in most cases, maintenance completed in 1993.

Effectiveness monitoring of two habitat improvement projects was conducted in 1993. Effectiveness monitoring of the Little Greys River and Lamb Springs habitat improvement projects was initiated in 1990 and 1991, respectively. An additional one to two years of data collection will be necessary prior to reporting results for these two projects. Fish population monitoring was completed on Green River instream structures in 1993. Green River monitoring showed a 100 percent increase in fish populations and when comparing the treated versus non-treated river, a 400 percent difference in fish density was observed.

EVALUATION:

Not all fishery habitat improvement investments were visually inspected during 1993. One concern is that the location of many of the existing structures is unknown to the inspector. Inadequate documentation and record keeping of past fishery structure accomplishments can result in significant effort in locating past structures.

The results of effectiveness monitoring on the habitat improvement projects has shown the value of habitat improvement structures. The installation of instream structures should not be substituted for sound watershed management practices to maintain aquatic ecosystems at a desired and near natural condition, but should only be constructed where there is a documented lack of critical habitat for the target species.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

1) Provide clear direction and annually review accomplishments for the reports on existing habitat improvement investments.

DONE - ONGOING

2) Continue effectiveness monitoring of various types of habitat improvement investments across the Forest.

DONE - ONGOING

3) Add new projects for effectiveness monitoring of new or un-tested designs.

WILL ADD ONE PROJECT IN 1994

4) Comprehensive implementation and effectiveness monitoring plans should be completed and implemented on all Districts in 1993.

NOT DONE

5) Place files on Districts where the projects reside to enhance communication and foster responsibility.

NOT DONE.

ACTION:

1) Provide clear direction and annually review accomplishments for the reports on existing habitat improvement investments. 2) Continue effectiveness monitoring of various types of habitat improvement investments across the Forest. 3) Add new projects for effectiveness monitoring of new or untested designs. 4) Comprehensive implementation and effectiveness monitoring plans should be completed and implemented on all Districts in 1994. 5) Place files on Districts where the projects reside to enhance communication and foster responsibility. 6) Districts should develop a inspection and maintenance schedule for all known fisheries improvement structures.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Riparian and Aquatics

ITEM:

H2 - Implementation monitoring of rangeland proper-use criteria - Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 4.7(d))

METHOD:

Proper-use is monitored using the Ocular Estimate, Paired-plot, and Utilization Gauge methods. Criteria to determine proper-use is outlined in the Forest Plan forage utilization standards and/or in the allotment management plans.

RESULTS:

Grazing impact studies in riparian areas were conducted on 36 grazing allotments and on heavy recreation areas in the Teton Wilderness. The studies were used to obtain a quantified measure of forage use as a means to determine if livestock use is within forage utilization standards. Proper grazing practices were observed in most areas; but some problem areas were identified.

Kemmerer District - Riparian grazing impact studies were conducted on 14 allotments. All allotments met proper-use criteria.

Big Piney District - Riparian grazing impact studies were conducted on 16 allotments. All allotments met proper-use criteria.

Buffalo District - Riparian grazing impact studies were conducted on 3 allotments and on heavy recreation areas of the Teton Wilderness. All allotments met proper-use criteria. Areas with frequent recreational livestock grazing exceeded proper-use criteria.

Pinedale District - Riparian grazing impact studies were conducted on 3 allotments. All allotments met proper-use criteria.

The other Districts reported having no riparian grazing impact studies conducted this past year.

EVALUATION:

The Forest Plan sets riparian forage utilization standards at 55 percent in areas with unsatisfactory condition and 65 percent in areas with satisfactory condition. However, sometimes proper-use is set lower than indicated in the Forest Plan to accommodate wildlife and/or vegetation recovery. Current range funding is inadequate to conduct the necessary amount of grazing impact studies. Utilization data is being used to identify priority areas where management efforts should increase to achieve proper-use of an allotment. The information is also being used to build case files on individual allotments to update allotment management plans.

ACTION:

Continue monitoring vegetation utilization and take the necessary administrative action to resolve known problems.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Riparian and Aquatics

ITEM:

K1 - Validation monitoring of riparian areas - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 4.7(b))

METHOD:

Level II or Level III riparian inventories following the Region 4 Riparian Inventory Guide.

RESULTS:

Vegetation inventories were completed on the following streams: Big Piney District - Level I on a portion of South Cottonwood Creek; Greys River District - Level II on Greys River, Murphy Creek, White Creek, Cow Camp Creek, Fire Box Creek, and lower portion of Sheep Creek, Level III on Greys River;Jackson District - Level II on Willow Creek. The other Districts reported having no riparian vegetation inventory completed this past year.

Fisheries inventories were completed on the following streams: Greys River District - Level III on Greys River; Buffalo District - Level II on Blackrock Creek. The other Districts reported having no fisheries inventory completed this past year.

EVALUATION:

The majority of the streams inventoried indicated a stable environment. There were a few specific locations that had unstable streambanks due to shallow-rooted vegetation and/or naturally erodible soil types. This is baseline information, and current budgets are inadequate to inventory the necessary amount of riparian areas.

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ACTION IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Districts have formed interdisciplinary teams to review activities occurring along streams with unstable banks.

ACTION:

Areas that indicate problems should be looked at more closely to determine the source of the problem and a means to restore the area to a more stable environmemt.

NTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Riparian and Aquatic Habitats

ITEM

K4 - Validation monitoring of reserve pit fluids

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 1.3(a) and 4.4)

METHOD

Chemical analysis of drilling fluids before disposal on National Forest System lands, and/or analysis of stream water above and below reserve pit locations.

RESULTS

The Hunter Creek Well on the Jackson District was drilled and monitored this past year by above and below stream water samples. Stream water was examined for total volatile hydrocarbons, oil and grease, suspended and dissolved solids, and conductivity. Total volatile hydrocarbons and oil and grease were at or below detection limits. Suspended and dissolved solids and conductivity were essentially the same above and below the drilling site.

EVALUATION

These results show that the stream water quality was unaffected by the drilling operation.

ACTION

No follow up action is needed.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Riparian and Aquatics

ITEM:

K7 - Validation and effectiveness monitoring of watershed and stream channel condition trend. No more than two streams in undisturbed watersheds. Six to eight streams of Order 3 or larger watersheds for which management activities are planned or scheduled during the next 10 to 15 years - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.7)

METHOD:

Designated stream cross-sections will be selected at which the following measurements will be made: (1) Stream Channel Stability, (2) width depth ratio, (3) macroinvertebrate survey, and (4) cobble imbeddedness. Precision/Reliability 70 to 80 percent.

RESULTS:

Greys River, a fourth order stream, was added to the stream channel monitoring program in 1993. Six stations were established with data collection completed at two stations. Pebble counts were substituted for cobble embeddedness. Macro-invertebrate sampling was completed at all six stations. Greys River stream channel monitoring plan establishes repeat data collection bi-annually.

EVALUATION:

Initial channel condition description on the two Greys River stations have yet to be described. Results of repeat data analysis will not be reported until 1995. Forage utilization and recreation use will be evaluated and compared to trends in riparian habitat and stream channel conditions. Stream bank stability and width depth ratios are the measurements of particular concern in relation to the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

1) Cobble imbeddedness measurements have proved insensitive to ground disturbing management actions and should be removed for the stated monitoring technique.

COBBLE EMBEDDEDNESS TECHNIQUE HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH THE WOLMAN PEBBLE COUNT.

2) Establish macro-invertabrate sampling stations.

MONITORING MACRO INVERTEBRATES HAS BEEN INCORPORATED.

3) Add additional streams Order 2 and larger to the monitoring schedule.

GREYS RIVER WAS ADDED IN 1993.

ACTION:

Add additional streams order 2 and larger to the monitoring schedule. North Fork Spread Creek stream channel monitoring is scheduled for 1994 and monitoring of two streams, South Cottonwood Creek (D-2) and Giraffe Creek (D-1), has been proposed for 1994.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Riparian and Aquatic Habitats

ITEM:

K9 - Effectiveness monitoring of water quality related to specific projects or activities - Priority 2

(Refer to Forest Plan Objective 1.3(a)(b), 4.1(b))

METHOD:

Bathymetric sounding and mapping
Physical: Temperature, conductivity, turbidity, width/depth and discharge.
Chemical: Nitrate, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, and pH
Biological: Macroinvertebrates and fecal coliform

RESULTS:

The bathymetric work was carried out on Lower Slide Lake cooperatively with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as part of an overall aquatic survey.

The physical, chemical and biological testing was conducted by the Teton Science School on Ditch and Turpin Creeks at 17 locations.

EVALUATION:

Extensive filling found from lake inlet to narrows near Atherton Campground. Maximum water depth in upper portion of lake declined from 70 to 50 feet due mainly to natural sediment load.

The water testing by the Teton Science School forms a useful baseline of water quality in Ditch and Turpin Creek.

ACTION:

Repeat bathymetric survey during next planning cycle.

Repeat baseline water quality measurements at 5 to 10 year intervals.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Riparian and Aquatic Habitats

ITEM:

K10 - Validation and effectiveness monitoring of lake water quality - Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 1.3(a) & (b)

METHOD:

Bacterial sampling of selected lakes and streams in high use areas.

RESULTS:

Water samples were collected upstream and downstream of concentrated dispersed camping area on Mosquito Creek where long term residency has been documented. Samples were also taken in Ditch and Turpin Creeks above and below permitted ranching activities, and Teton Science School.

EVALUATION:

At Mosquito Creek an above/below increase from 5 to 18 plate counts was observed. The higher count is nonetheless a low amount and well below State standards. The increase could be due to resident camping use or wildlife.

Coliform bacteria were detected in Ditch and Turpin Creeks but not in high numbers.

ACTION:

Sampling of these areas in future should add fecal streptococcal becteria to enable a determination of whether animals or humans are the source.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Riparian and Aquatic Habitats

ITEM:

K11 - Effectiveness monitoring of instream flow - Priority 2

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 1.3(a))

METHOD:

Method described in Region 4 Technical Guide

RESULTS:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department made instream flow measurements on several streams in the Wyoming Range over the past two years. These measurements occurred on the National Forest and were made to substantiate instream flow amounts that the Department is recommending be reserved for fishery protection.

ACTION:

The instream flow recommendations have been forwarded to the Wyoming State Engineer for final determination as per the Wyoming Instream Flow Law.

AIR

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: AIR QUALITY

ELEMENT

K3 - Validation monitoring of air quality values - Priority 1

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives: 4.6(a))

METHOD

The monitoring includes visibility, precipitation chemistry, lake chemistry, lake zooplankton, lichens and soil properties. The actual methods are described in Air Quality Related Values Report No. 2 on file at the Pinedale Ranger District and the Forest Supervisor's Office. The Forest Hydrologist and Air Resource Staff Officer can provide more information.

RESULTS

Monitoring continued this past year for those physical, chemical and biological items described above and listed in the monitoring plan. No evidences of adverse change were detected. The work to perfect the MAGIC model continued with the cooperation of the Forest Service research group at Boise, Idaho, under the direction of Dr. Jim Clayton. Final results were reported this year on the lichen survey.

EVALUATION

In general, the condition of the lichens is good and diversity broad despite the finding of relatively high concentrations of certain metals such as zinc, copper, and lead. The concentrations of these and other metals collected from lichen samples in 1992 were nearly two times higher than concentrations from lichens sampled in 1985. At this time it is not possible to determine whether the increase is due to increased atmospheric deposition of the metals or perhaps more likely a drought effect which increased the concentration of these metals available for uptake by the lichens.

ACTION

A worshop will take place in 1994 to evaluate the results of past monitoring and chart the course of future monitoring efforts.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Air Quality

ELEMENT

K8 - Validation monitoring of lake chemistry - Priority 1

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives: 4.6(a)

METHOD

The Gran Titration method for acid neutralizing capacity was used to index lake chemistry in three lakes in the Bridger Wilderness. AQRV Report No. 2 on file at the Pinedale District and Forest Supervisor's Office gives more detail on the sampling method.

RESULTS

The results for this past year are within the limit of acceptable change for acid neutralizing capacity.

ACTION

The measurement of acid neutralizing capacity will continue as a regular part of the monitoring program.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND SENSITIVE SPECIES

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G2 - Implementation monitoring of compliance with Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines - Priority 1

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 3.1(b)).

METHOD:

Provide education through visitor contacts in-the-field and in-the-front office; follow-up letters; law enforcement incident reports and citations; informational bulletin boards; poster development and use; brochures; pins and T-shirts; and interpretive/educational programs. Installation, use, and monitoring of food storage boxes and meat poles; Expansion and use of bear resistant pannier and backpacker food tube rental program (rental is provided by citizen group called Friends of Bridger-Teton); "VIP" trips.

RESULTS:

Compliance over the past 5 years has improved dramatically.

Visitor Contacts: A total of 6,450 visitors were contacted in-the-field by wilderness rangers, Trailhead Hosts, and patrols. In addition, 4,675 visitors were contacted in offices, of which at least 50 percent received information on grizzly bears. Contacts emphasized compliance with food storage regulations. During the Fall hunting season, patrols monitored and enforced compliance with food storage orders. Over 500 camps were visited. The "Grizzly Country" series of brochures are carried and given out by field going staff and are considered a big improvement over previous materials available. These brochures are also available at the Forest Supervisor's Office and District front desk. They were also distributed during the Fall at local businesses and ranches. Two Hunter Safety in Grizzly Country Brochures are sent to people requesting license information by the the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Five citations (out of 12 total) and 80 incident reports (out of 235), were written for violation of the sanitation (food/meat storage) order. In the Wilderness, the consensus is that compliance is increasing in all areas, and dramatically in the Thorofare region.

Over 50 follow-up letters were written to visitors contacted in-the-field by wilderness rangers. The letters provided additional information on proper food storage (utilizing the "Grizzly Country" brochures), the bear resistant pannier and food tube "rental" program, designs for constructing bear resistant food containers, and information on where they can be purchased.

The District bear resistant pannier and backpacker food tube "rental" program was expanded. An additional 12 panniers were purchased makeing a total of 16 now available to the public. In addition, 16 food tubes are now available (4 large and 12 small). In this second year of the program, 68 panniers and 5 backpacker food tubers were "rented" out (in comparison to 11 and 0 respectively in 1992).

Eight additional food/storage boxes were purchased and distributed to developed campsites and dispersed camping areas. An informal survey of developed site users indicated that they would be more likely to use the boxes if they were off the ground at near waist height. Two different structures were tested during the summer field season to determine what design was most effective and cost efficient.

Fourteen additional food/storage poles (12 in the Teton Wilderness, two south of Highway 287), and two metal tripod poles were installed. Over 100 poles and boxes were monitored and inspected, with repairs made to over 15 poles in the Teton Wilderness.

Grizzly Bear information at all trailheads, was improved by using the series of posters developed in 1992. These posters were also used during the Fall hunting season at several businesses and ranches in the

area including Teton Park KOA. A large format poster (24" X 36"), incorporating several messages with the intention of making it easier to post, was produced and is available for use in 1994.

A total of 87 interpretive presentations were made reaching over 1,930 people, children and adults: 80 through the Resort Naturalist summer interpretive program (total 1600 people), 5 to Safari Club Wilderness Leadership School, teacher and other groups (total 300 people), and two Moran School classes (30 students total).

A "Grizzly Country" pin was designed and produced. It includes a written card with general information and an explaination of the program. It will be available for sale in 1994. The proceeds will go to "Friend of the Bridger-Teton" for support of the grizzly information and education programs.

In addition two "VIP" trips were organized and led for interagency and Wyoming Game and Fish Department staff and for Regional office staff.

EVALUATION:

General awareness and understanding of Grizzly Bears has improved. Compliance by returning hunters/campers is good. Many moose hunters and hunters who are new to the area have no idea about proper food storage. Even with strong enforcement, problems still exist as proven by the need to remove a bear that found food rewards several times in Buffalo Valley this past summer. Several food/meat storage poles were repaired and several are still in need of repair.

ACTION:

Continue with all of the above activities. Continue to enforce the food storage order and monitor food/meat storage poles. Budget for a food/meat storage pole maintenance crew in the outyear budget. Send out letters on food storage to summer home owners. Continue with education programs.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G3 - Effectiveness monitoring of retention of habitat and recovery of bald eagle populations - Priority 1

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 3.2(c) and 3.2(d)).

METHOD:

Monitor the fledging rate of bald eagles and survey the mid-winter bald eagle population on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

RESULTS:

Seven of nine nesting territories on the National Forest were occupied in 1993 with a total of five eaglets fledged.

Winter population surveys are conducted every second year; this year, the survey was not conducted.

Biological assessments were completed for all projects occurring in occupied bald eagle habitat on the National Forest.

EVALUATION:

Bald eagle nesting activity continues to be higher than anticipated in the Forest Plan Objectives, however production was down in 1993 due to weather and a lost nest tree during incubation. The 1993 fledging rate was 0.7 eaglets per nest below the Forest Plan Objective 3.2(c), yet we have more nests than the Forest goal, thereby, producing one more eaglet than Objective 3.2(c). Mortality does not appear to be a problem on the Forest and, therefore, Forest Plan Objective 3.2(d) is also being met.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTION IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Monitoring of nesting success and winter populations occurred. Biological assessments were completed and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was completed; all assessments resulted in non-jeopardy evaluations.

ACTION:

Continue monitoring efforts in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and participation in the Greater Yellowstone Bald Eagle Working Group. Ensure that biological assessments are completed for all projects on the National Forest which take place where Bald Eagles are known to occur, and potential nesting or winter roosting habitat exists.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G4 - Validation and effectiveness monitoring of Kendall Warm Springs Dace populations and associated stream and riparian areas - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan objective 3.2(i))

METHOD:

The exclosure fence surrounding the Kendall Warm Springs is inspected annually by walking the perimeter and making any neccessary repairs. This is accomplished in the Spring before cattle are moved through the area. Typical repairs include stapling wire to fence posts and splicing broken wire. The effectiveness of the fence to exclude cattle presence is completed several times during the course of the Summer, but particularly in the Spring and Fall when human and livestock presence in the area is greatest. Visual inspection of the spring channel and surrounding riparian habitat is also completed at this time.

RESULTS:

The exclosure fence was inspected and repaired in 1993. Livestock presence within the exclosure was not observed in 1993. Human presence along the spring channel was evident, but did not impact the habitat or Dace population. The Dace population was not monitored in 1993. The district prepared a draft population and habitat monitoring plan in 1991.

Biological evaluations were not completed for the Dollar Lake and Green River Campground timber sales. A biological evaluation was completed for the Union Pass Road Environmental Impact Statement.

EVALUATION:

Present management of the Kendall Warm Springs exclosure is adequate to protect the Dace habitat from the occasional visitor. Protection from vandalism is not possible. The exclosure fence is effective in eliminating livestock presence within the exclosure. Present management strategy is adequate to meet Forest Plan Objective 3.2(i).

The Kendall Warm Springs Dace Recovery Plan includes monitoring of the Dace population. Population estimates and comprehensive measurements of existing habitat conditions have never been completed, but are planned for 1994.

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ACTION IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

The exclosure fence was inspected and repaired in 1992. Biological evaluations were not completed on two of three projects (Dollar Lake and Green River Campground timber sales). Reviews were completed on the Recovery Plan and funds to fulfill Forest Service responsibilities were budgeted.

ACTIONS:

Continue to monitor the livestock exclosure and repair as necessary. Ensure that all proposed projects include biological evaluations for the Kendall Warm Springs Dace. Review the Kendall Warm Springs Dace Recovery Plan and ensure budgeting to implement Forest Service responsibilities. Consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that a non-jeopardy situation exists for all projects initiated on the Forest.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G5 - Validation monitoring of Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (CRCT) populations - Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objectives 3.3(a) and 3.3(b))

METHODS:

Measurement of population trends in twelve index streams are conducted biannually on the odd-numbered years by Wyoming Game and Fish Department in cooperation with the Forest Service. CRCT population trends are based on a six year average (minimum three samples). Two of the twelve streams occur on lands managed by BLM. Project data files are located on the Pinedale Ranger District and Wyoming Game and Fish Department office in Pinedale.

RESULTS:

Index streams were monitored in 1993. The data have not been summarized at this time, but biologists of Wyoming Game and Fish Department believe that the population trend is down in 1993.

EVALUATION:

The CRCT historical range has been greatly reduced with the largest portion of existing pure populations located within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The other areas outside the forest where there are pure populations of CRCT are currently maintaining stable populations or are on the decline. As a result, the potential for federally listing the CRCT as a Threatened species is becoming more of a reality each day, regardless of the status of the CRCT on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

ACTION:

Meet Forest Plan Objective 3.3(b) as follows: 1) Continue the population monitoring as it is presently measured and evaluated. Add index streams as appropriate. 2) Evaluate the habitat conditions of all index streams on the Forest within five years to determine condition and trend. 3) Establish the desired future habitat conditions and population levels for each Colorado River Cutthroat Trout index stream on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. 4) Revise and implement the Comprehensive Management Plan for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout in the Green River Drainage of Wyoming (in progress). 5) Do biological evaluations on all projects in Colorado River Cutthroat Trout drainages.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G7 - Validation monitoring of sensitive plant species - Priority 2

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 3.3(a)).

METHOD:

Use of maps of sensitive plant populations and Wyoming Natural Heritage database maintained by the Nature Conservancy and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality; established permanent monitoring sites and sampling methods.

RESULTS:

The Bridger-Teton National Forest is in the process of collecting baseline data for sensitive plant species through cooperation with various partners. A floristic survey of the Salt River and Wyoming Ranges was conducted in 1992 and 1993 by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium who will provide the Forest with a report in 1994.

No sensitive plants were threatened by proposed projects in 1993.

EVALUATION:

The Forest has initiated talks for an agreement with the Rocky Mountain Herbarium to do a floristic survey to cover portions of the Gros Ventre Range beginning in 1994.

The Bridger-Teton, through contracts with the Nature Conservancy, is actively seeking species-specific information for the Forest's seven sensitive species.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTION IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

Baseline data on sensitive species was collected on several districts. Though we have management recommendations on five of the Forests seven sensitive plants and contracts which will result in managment recommendation for the remaining two sensitive plants, no management plans for Intermountain Region Sensitive Species were written. Thirty-five biological evaluations on sensitive plant species were completed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ACTION IN 1991 REPORT:

Continue to collect baseline data on Intermountain Region Sensitive Species. Write management plans for Intermountain Region Sensitive Species. Include Intermountain Region Sensitive Species in all project and plan Biological Evaluations where they or their habitats occur.

ACTION:

Rewrite this monitoring item to better address Forest Plan Objective 3.3(a) and provide usable data indicating effects of implementing the Forest Plan. Develop a sensitive plant sightings database in coordination with a wildlife sightings database (See item G8, this section) which will provide information on occurrences and locations of sensitive plant species. Require Districts to develop and implement sensitive species inventories when funding is provided. Complete biological evaluations for all projects which take place where Intermountain Region sensitive species are known to occur or where potential habitat exists.

Continue to collect baseline data on Intermountain Region sensitive plant species and complete management plans for sensitive plant species. Obtain the services of ecologists or botanists to assist Districts in conducting inventories and developing management plans for sensitive plant species.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G8 - Validation monitoring of sensitive wildlife species - Priority 2

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 3.3(a)).

METHOD:

Use of Geological Information System vegetation database and aerial and ground reconnaissance of such things as osprey nests and trumpeter swans.

ACTION:

Rewrite this monitoring item to better address Forest Plan Objective 3.3(a) and provide usable data indicating effects of implementing the Forest Plan. Develop a wildlife sightings database which will provide information on occurrences and locations of sensitive wildlife species. Require Districts to develop and implement sensitive species inventories when funding is provided. Complete biological evaluations for all projects which take place where Intermountain Region sensitive species are known to occur or where potential habitat exists.

Continue to collect baseline data on Intermountain Region sensitive wildlife species and complete management plans for sensitive wildlife species.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G9 - Validation monitoring of the Bonneville cutthroat trout populations - Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Objective 3.3(a) and 3.3(c))

METHOD:

Measurement of population trends in index streams will be conducted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in cooperation with the Forest Service. Trends will be based on a six year average with a minimum of three samples.

RESULTS:

The Interagency Bonneville cutthroat trout management plan for the Bear River Drainage was completed in 1993. This plan establishes the index stations for evaluation of the population trend, and the criteria for measuring the population trend and recovery. Huff Creek (BLM) and Hobble Creek populations were sampled in 1993. Based on two samples over last four years, Hobble Creek Bonneville Cutthrout Trout population was down.

EVALUATION:

The Bonneville cutthroat trout population in Hobble Creek, an index stream, was sampled for the third time in 1993. The average population for these three samples will be used for future evaluations of the population trend. The remaining index stream population sampling efforts are scheduled for 1994. Population sampling is scheduled bi-annually.

The Bonneville cutthroat trout is currently being considered for category 1 listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Forest Service needs to monitor more closely the populations and habitat conditions which will affect the species viability.

ACTION:

Meet Forest Plan Objectives 3.3(a) and 3.3(b) as follows: 1) Continue population monitoring and identify index streams as appropriate. 2) Evaluate the habitat conditions of all index streams within two years to use as baseline information for future comparisons for determining any trends in condition. 3) Establish desired future habitat conditions and population levels for each Bonneville River cutthroat trout index streams on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. 4) Implement a Comprehensive Management Plan for the Bear River Drainage of the Bridger-Teton National Forest (completed in 1993). 5) Do biological evaluations on all projects on the forest within the Bear River drainage.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G11- Effectiveness monitoring of compliance with Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines to ensure habitat capability - Priority 2

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 3.1(a)).

METHOD:

The District utilizes information from the Grizzly Bear model to ensure that habitat capability does not drop below the recovery level specified in the Greater Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. Monitored production of White Bark Pine Cones by counting cones along an established transect. Monitored Grizzly Bear distribution and habitat by mapping radio collared bear locations and all other sightings.

RESULTS:

All projects were in compliance with Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Guidelines as well as the Standards and Guidelines in the Bridger-Teton National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. White Bark Pine production during 1993 was normal. Bears were distributed over the entire District and further south on the Jackson Range District.

The Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with determinations of no effect upon grizzly bears on all projects or made recommendations on how to alleviate potential conflicts, resulting in non-jeopardy evaluations.

EVALUATION:

The cumulative effects model is used to verify that proposed projects do not degrade grizzly bear habitat, nor have a detrimental effect on grizzly bear populations or recovery.

The abundance of White Bark Pine is an indicator of the amount of bear problems to expect during the fall. Low cone production years usually have higher incidents of bear problems.

Forest Plan Objective 3.1(a) is being met through use of the cumulative effects model, completion of biological assessments and project field reviews for effective monitoring of compliance with Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines to ensure habitat capability.

ACTION:

Continue to review the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Guidelines and incorporate them into projects within the Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. Continue to utilize biological assessments, the cumulative effects model, and field reviews to assess the effects of implementing the Forest Plan in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. Continue to read White Bark Pine transects and map bear locations.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G12- Effectiveness monitoring of retention of occupied bald eagle habitat - Priority 2

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objectives 3.2(b) and 3.2(e)).

METHOD:

Use the bald eagle cumulative effects model to measure changes in the percent of suitable foraging and perching habitat available.

RESULTS:

The occupied nest on the Buffalo Fork River was monitored to prevent human disturbance, and a cooperative effort with the Great Plains Wildlife Institute was initiated to obtain sightings and habitat use observations.

A cummulative effects model was run for the construction phase of the Snake River Highway Project. Marginal improvement was shown in the operational phase and significant reductions in foraging and perching were observed during construction.

Biological assessments were completed for occupied territories in the Snake River Canyon, Dollar Lake, and the Gros Ventre site. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with no effect or "not likely to adversely effect" determinations.

EVALUATION:

The cummulative effects model does not take into account the effects of highway reconstruction on habitat conditions and visibility of the rebuilt corridor. It does adequately address human activity in perching and foraging following construction due to reduced opportunities for human intrusion.

The nest management plan for the Gros Ventre nest territory will require continued effort before completion. Data collected for the Gros Ventre territory during 1992 is currently being analyzed to determine what further information will be necessary to complete a nest management plan. Part of the analysis involves assessing whether existing data is adequate for the cumulative effects model to provide reliable information.

Management activities and implementation of the Forest Plan did not reduce nesting activity nor fledging success at occupied territories on the Bridger-Teton National Forest (See Item G3 this section), and new nest territories continue to be established on the National Forest. Current implementation of the Forest Plan is meeting Objectives 3.2(b) and 3.2(e).

ACTION:

Recommend minimizing disturbance level resulting in the Snake River Canyon from highway reconstruction from East Table Creek to the Astoria bridge and mitigating impacts of construction by limiting corridor to two 12 foot lanes with 4 foot shoulders.

Ensure that all projects in habitats covered by the Yellowstone and Snake River Bald Eagle Nest Management Plans follow the stated guidelines in those plans. Develop nest management plans for the Dollar Lake, Gros Ventre, and Buffalo Fork bald eagle nests. Complete biological assessments for all projects occurring in the vicinity of occupied nesting territories and winter perching areas. Consult with

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure non-jeopardy evaluations result from all projects implemented in the vicinity of occupied bald eagle nesting territories and winter perching sites on the National Forest.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G13- Effectiveness monitoring of reintroduction of peregrine falcons - Priority 2

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 3.2(f)).

METHOD:

Monitor hack-site performance and any natural aeries of peregrine falcons on the Bridger-Teton National Forest through survey techniques.

RESULTS:

In 1993, one of the two 1992 know active eyries, a historic eyrie, and two new eyries were monitored. A total of eight peregrines were fledged from three nests.

Biological evaluations were completed for the Lower Valley Power and Light fiber optic line in the Snake River Canyon, and the Dry Cottonwood Timber Salvage Sale.

EVALUATION:

Management activities and implementation of the Forest Plan did not affect nesting activity nor fledging success at any of the eyries monitored.

The hacking program on the National Forest is successful and Forest Plan Objective 3.2(f) is being accomplished. Due to returning peregrines in the Green River country the Soda Lake hack site was move southeast onto Bureau of Land Mangement administered lands. The Forests contribution to recovery in the Rocky Mountains is spurring a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service led evaluation of the peregrine for downlisting.

ACTION:

Continue monitoring for peregrine falcons in cooperation with Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Peregrine Fund. Ensure biological assessments are completed for all projects occurring near eyries and foraging areas, and where potential habitat exists.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

ITEM:

G14 - Implementation monitoring of planned disturbances and construction or reconstruction of transmission lines and fences in important whooping crane habitat - Priority 2

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 3.2(g)).

METHOD:

Conduct surveys of whooping cranes on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. New fences and transmission lines in whooping crane habitat are checked or their construction administered to assure they are clearly visible to whooping cranes. Field observations by Forest Service personnel, Wyoming Game and Fish personnel, interested public, and partner organizations are depended upon for whooping crane sightings and activities.

RESULTS:

No sightings of whooping cranes on the Forest were reported during 1993.

Biological evaluations were completed for the Lower Valley Power and Light Fiber Optic Line project in the Snake River Canyon and the Dry Cottonwood Timber Salvage Sale.

EVALUATION:

Marginal habitat exists on the Bridger-Teton National Forest for whooping cranes. Nesting activity is not expected to occur on the National Forest. Occasional sightings and use of habitat on the Forest for staging and lone individuals is expected. Reasonable efforts have been made to meet Forest Plan Objective 3.2(g), given the frequency of occurrence of whooping cranes on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

ACTION:

Continue monitoring efforts, and prepare biological evaluations on all projects in areas where whooping cranes are known to occur.

PROTECTION

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Protection

ITEM:

I5 - Validation monitoring of levels of forest pests - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objectives 1.1(a) and 1.1 (b))

METHODS:

The Regional Forest Pest Management Group conducted an annual pest monitoring evaluation for the Forest. Involved an aerial reconnaissance with additional Forestwide ground survey (stand exams) which includes assessment of forest pests. Stand exam data is collected as part of the Timber Management Information System (TMIS) corporate database.

RESULTS:

The annual aerial and ground survey detected and recorded both intensity and types of forest pest occurrances. Stand exams were completed on approximately 3,000 acres Forestwide. In addition, 371 acres of dwarf mistletoe girdling was completed in plantations and rodent control was competed on 1748 acres.

EVALUATION:

Although there is a widespread and increasing occurrence of several types of pests located throughout the Forest, including mountain pine beetle, western balsam bark beetle, Douglas-fir beetle, and spruce beetle, these infestations are not at epidemic proportions. Insect baiting and removal of infested trees in the Snake River Canyon seem to be effective. Althought there is some heavy infestation of pocket gophers in some clearcut units, overall damage is low.

ACTION:

Continued annual monitoring is required. The annual survey data and trend information will be incorporated into the Plan Implementation process. Continue the six-year Mistletoe Project as planned on the Big Piney District and rodent control in new plantations as stated in each timber sale K-V Plan.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Protection

ITEM:

M1- Implementation and effectiveness monitoring of building structure and safety requirements - Priority 1.

(No Goal and Objective available in Forest Plan)

METHODS:

Building locations at administrative sites Forestwide are inspected for health and safety problems, structural defects, and maintenance needs. Special program inspections and testing occur for radon and asbestos.

RESULTS:

All asbestos testing was completed last year, and a "Comprehensive Inspection and Management Report" for asbestos containing material (ACM) was completed for the Forest. The ACM's were either removed or encapsulated at ten buildings that were considered the most immediate health threats in FY 92 with another 13 buildings completed in FY 93.

Other special emphasis areas include substandard propane installations. The Willow Creek Guard Station was redone in FY 93 bringing to four the total completed so far. Testing for contamination at post and pole treatment sites throughout the Forest was completed in FY 93.

EVALUATION:

Emphasis will have to remain with the special programs and immediate safety and hazard concerns. There is neither the money nor personnel to look at or keep up with the badly needed maintenance items. Forthcoming programs such as post and pole treatment sites and lead testing and abatement will continue to take center stage. Safety and hazard concerns will continue to be dealt with as time and money permit.

ACTION:

Continue to attach "Facility Maintenance Project Proposals" as part of the Forest's budget proposals for coming fiscal years. Funding has been set aside for asbestos abatement and radon mitigation in FY 94. Special funding for the post and pole treatment sites is supposed to be available in FY 94. Since funding for any project under $100,000 comes out of the constrained budget, the Forest may want to fund one project yearly. A permanent technician is badly needed in the ngineering Organization (facilities) to learn the national codes and be trained in building inspections, special programs, and contract administration. This position has been approved and action is being taken to fill it.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Protection

ITEM:

M2 - Implementation and effectiveness monitoring of dam administration - Ptiotity 1.

(No Goal and Objective available in Forest Plan)

METHODS:

Visual inspection for unsafe conditions.

RESULTS:

The Forest currently has 20 dams. Of these, seven are considered "high hazard". During FY93 the Forest, in cooperation with the Regional Dam Safety engineer, conducted safety inspections of these seven dams. Hazard ratings for three of these are currently being assessed by the State of Wyoming Engineer's Office. Jurisdiction of the Boulder Lake Dam (WY01195) on the Pinedale Ranger District was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management. Of the 20 dams on the Forest, eight appear to be currently under Forest Service administration; the remaining dams are under special-use permit and maintained by the permittee.

The new Fremont Lake Dam and Lily Lake Dam were constructed during the past year, and both dams were inspected on numerous occasions during the construction phase.

EVALUATION:

The FY93 dam safety inspections indicate that generally the Forest's dams are "safe," but considerable maintenance is necessary to bring them into conformance with the National Dam Safety Act. The Strawberry Creek Dam (WY01888) on the Greys River Ranger District was found to be in excellent condition, maintenance appeared to be outstanding, and no deficiencies were noted. Willow Lake Dam (WY01192) on the Pinedale Ranger District continues to be a problem with little indication that deficiencies noted last year had been corrected.

Considerable effort was made to develop a Wilderness Management Plan that would adequately address dam safety management within current Wilderness boundaries.

ACTION:

1. Continue current inspection/monitoring schedule and program.
2. Develop a Dam Management Plan for the Forest.
3. Develop an action plan for correcting deficiencies on Forest administered dams and conduct follow-up inspection on permitted dams to insure deficiencies are being corrected.
4. Continue current efforts to develop dam management direction for all dams located within designated wilderness areas, identifying all dams currently falling within wilderness boundaries, and spelling out management objectives and guidelines for dam management within Wilderness Areas.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Protection

ITEM:

M3 - Implementation and effectiveness monitoring of bridge safety program - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objectives 4.1(a) and 4.1(b))

METHODS:

Physical investigation and visual observation made by Regional Engineers.

RESULTS:

The Turpin Meadows Bridge was found to be in poor condition and below satndard. As a result, the load limits were reduced.

The Dry Lake Creek and South Fork Spread Creek bridges are experiencing total decay of deck and superstructure or partial decay of substructures and are in a condition beyond corrective action.

The second Bridge on Sheep Creek was found to have the railing gone and footings undermined.

EVALUATION:

Turpin Meadows Bridge needs replacement as soon as possible. Continued use may be allowed with reduced load limits.

Dry Lake Creek and South Fork Spread Creek Bridges should be closed immediately.

Second Bridge on Sheep Creek should be replaced.

ACTION:

The Turpin Meadows Bridge Environmental Assessment (EA) should be complete and sent out for review. Regional Office engineers should work with District staff to develop bridge design that meets criteria for wild and scenic eligibility, visitor use and safety.

The Dry Lake Creek and South Fork Spread Creek Bridges were closed and removed and the approaches were sloped to provide safe crossing for wagons, horse and foot recreational use. Permittees using the area were informed of safety evaluation and resulting action.

Engineering on the Forest was informed of the condition of the bridge at Sheep Creek.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Protection

ITEM:

N1- Implementation monitoring of cultural resource surveys prior to project approval - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goals and Objective 4.9)

METHOD:

Review list of legal notices and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)related decisions implemented during 1993 and compared to list of cultural resource survey reports to determine if adequate surveys were conducted in accordance with appropriate laws and regulations.

RESULTS:

A total of 43 projects were surveyed for cultural resources in 1993. Many of these projects will not be implemented until 1994. A total of 25 projects were initiated on the Forest in 1993 which required some level of cultural resource survey or review. No projects were appealed in 1993 because of inadequate cultural resource input.

EVALUATION:

Eighty-eight percent of the projects on the Forest were in compliance with existing laws and regulations. This represents an improvement over 1992 Forestwide project. No impacts were noted to significant cultural resources as a result of the projects implemented on the Forest.

ACTION:

Increased effort is needed to bring the Forest into 100 percent compliance with cultural resource laws and regulations. Better tracking of NEPA projects is needed to insure timely cultural resource input.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Protection

ITEM:

N2 - Monitoring of high site density cultural resource areas and/or significant cultural resources - Priority 1.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 4.9)

METHOD:

Visual inspection of previously recorded significant cultural resource sites to record any changes in condition and/or recover additional data.

RESULTS:

A total of 12 previously recorded significant sites were monitored in 1993. These include seven sites which were monitored for the first time this year (48SU330, TE479, TE1264, SU897, TE930 & 960, SU324).

EVALUATION:

Prehistoric site 48SU313 was recommended last year for salvage excavations to prevent further loss of data due to erosion and resource damage. This site was not excavated this year due to lack of funding, personnel and advanced coordination with outside organizations. This site continues to receive impacts from erosion and recreation activities. There was no change in site conditions at 48SU830 or SU972. Significant data recovered from sites 48SU897, TE479 and SU324. No change in resource condition was noted at remaining sites.

ACTION:

Continue monitoring significant sites in high recreation use areas, including sites 48SU972, SU313 and SU830. Monitor additional sites in 1994 including sites in wilderness areas.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CATEGORY: Protection

ITEM:

N3 - Effecitveness monitoring of the condition and protection of historic structures - Priority 2.

(Refer to Forest Plan Goal and Objective 4.9)

METHOD:

Visual inspection of historic administrative structures, lookout stations, and National Register sites.

RESULTS:

All administrative structures in wilderness areas were photographed and recorded. A comprehensive report detailing the history of these structures was completed.

EVALUATION:

The South Fork Guard Station, Enos Lake and Nowlin Meadows Patrol Cabins were found to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Cross Lake, Hawks Rest, and Fox Park were found to be not eligible. Huckleberry Fire Lookout continues to be monitored.

ACTION:

Conduct restoration program at Huckleberry Lookout in 1994. No further monitoring of wilderness administrative structures required. Conduct a Passport-in-Time project at tie hack village 48SU1078 in 1994.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1993 MONITORING REVIEW

This Appendix reports the Forest accomplishments by Community Interest Areas (CIA). In the Forest Plan (Appendix A, pages 7-17) opportunities and activities are listed for each CIA. The totals shown there are decadal totals. The totals below show accomplishments for 1993.

COMMUNITY INTEREST AREA 1 - DUBOIS

Recreation Construction and Reconstruction (Projects):	
Togwotee Overlook, Completed	1
Box Creek Trailhead, Completed	1
Angles Trailhead, Completed 1	
Sheffield Trailhead, Completed	1
Silvicultural Interpretive Site	1
Trail Construction/Reconstruction In Wilderness (Miles):	
Crater Lake Trail Reconstruction	1/2
Wildlife/Fish Structural Habitat Improvement (Structures):	
Food Storage Structures (grizzly bear)	17
Food Storage Boxes (grizzly bear)	14
Wildlife/Fish Non-Structural Habitat Improvement (Acres):	
Burro Hill Sagebrush and Willow Burns	180
Range Improvements - Fences (Miles):	
Flagstaff Drift	.25
Grazing (Animal Unit Months)	12,793
Timber Offered (Millions of Board Feet)	0.913
Watershed Restoration Program (Acres):	
Grizzly Creek	1

COMMUNITY INTEREST AREA 2 - GROS VENTRE

Recreation Construction and Reconstruction (Projects):	
Crystal Creek Trailhead Completion	1
Trail Construction and Reconstruction (Miles)	2
Range Improvements: Water Development (Structure)	2
Range Improvements: Fence (Miles)	2
Timber Offered (Millions of Board Feet)	0.80

Grazing (Animal Unit Months)	11,530
Wildlife/Fish Structure Improvement (Structure)	
Gros Ventre -- Red Hill Fishery Project	10

COMMUNITY INTEREST AREA 3 - JACKSON

Recreation Construction and Reconstruction (Projects):	
Prichard Boat Ramp - Day Use Area	1
Cache Creek Trailhead Improvement	1
Goodwin Lake Trailhead Improvement	1
Road Improvement Associated with Cache Creek And Goodwin	
Lake Trailhead Improvement (Miles)	0.75
Bryan Flat Trailhead	1
No Name Campground Improvement	1
Trail Construction/Reconstruction (Miles)	
Gros Ventre Wilderness Near Cache Creek	1
Wildlife/Fish Non-Structural Improvements (Acres):	
Cache Creek Trailhead Project	2
Wildlife/Fish Non-Structural Improvements (Acres):	
Beaver Mountain Aspen Release and Prescribed Fire	33
Timber Offered (Millions of Board Feet)	0.027
Grazing (Animal Unit Months)	2327
Watershed Restoration (Acres)	5
Rights-Of-Ways	
Third Party Acquisitions	2

COMMUNITY INTEREST AREA 4 - PINEDALE

Wildlife and Fish Structural Habitat Improvement (Structures):	
Green River Fish Habitat Improvement	10
Wildlife Non-Structural Habitat Improvement (Acres):	
Little Flattop Prescribed Burn	82
Timber Offered (MMBF)	1.18
Range Improvements: Forage Improvement (Acres)	
Little Flattop Prescribed Sagebrush Burn	363
Range Improvements: Fence (Miles)	5
Grazing (Animal Unit Months)	69,700
Watershed Restoration Program (Acres):	
Wagon Creek	3

COMMUNITY INTEREST AREA 5 - GREYS RIVER

Range Improvements: Forage Improvement (Acres)	200
Range Improvements Sign	1
Grazing (Animal Unit Months)	23,000
Timber Offered (Millions of Board Feet)	3.08
Trailhead Signing:	
Crow Creek, White Creek, Stump Lake, North Fork Sheep Creek	4 Each
Trail Maintenance:	
System Trail Maintenance (Miles)	42
Great Western Trail Signing	6

COMMUNITY INTEREST AREA 6 - AFTON FRONT

Trail Construction/Reconstruction (Miles):	
Swift Creek Trail Reconstruction	3.0
Trailhead Signing:	
Trail Fork	1 Each
Trail Maintenance (Miles)	15
Cattleguard Installed (Units)	1
Range Improvements: Fence (Miles)	1.0
Grazing (Animal Unit Months)	8,000

COMMUNITY INTEREST AREA 7 - BIG PINEY

Recreation Construction/Reconstruction (Projects):	
Middle Piney Lake Trailhead	1
North Piney Cut ogg Trailhead	1
Trail Construction/Reconstruction (Miles)	6
Wildlife/Fish Structural Improvements (Structure):	
Access Control Big Game (gates, barriers, etc.)	12
Streambank Stabilization	
Apperson Creek	1
Cliff Creek	1
Nylander Creek	1
Wildlife/Fish Non-Structural Improvements (Acres):	
Aspen/Sage Burning (Elk, Mule Deer, Moose)	
Dutch Dan	75

Range Improvements: Water Development	1
Range Forage Improvements (Acres)	550
Range Improvements: Fence (Miles)	10
Timber Offered (Millions of Board Feet)	2.54
Grazing (Animal Unit Months)	85,000

COMMUNITY INTEREST ARES 8 - KEMMERER

Recreation Construction/Reconstruction (Projects):	
Clear Creek Trailhead Completed	1
Trail Construction and Maintenace (Miles):	
Trail Construction or Reconstruction	1
Trail Maintenance	120
Fisheries Habitat Improvement (Structures):	
Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Habitat Improvement - Clear Creek	21
Range Improvements: Water Developments (Units)	2
Revegetation (Acre)	100
Range Improvements: Fence (Miles)	2
Grazing (Animal Unit Months)	26,000
Timber Offered (Millions of Board Feet)	1.19
Fuel Treatment (Timber) (Acre)	50
Watershed Restoration Program (Acres):	
Sheep Pass Gully Plugs and Seeding	60
Big Fall Creek Riparian Fence	1
Wildlife Habitat Improvement (Acre)	100
Mineral Management (Case)	27

APPENDIX B

PEOPLE WHO PREPARED THIS REPORT

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